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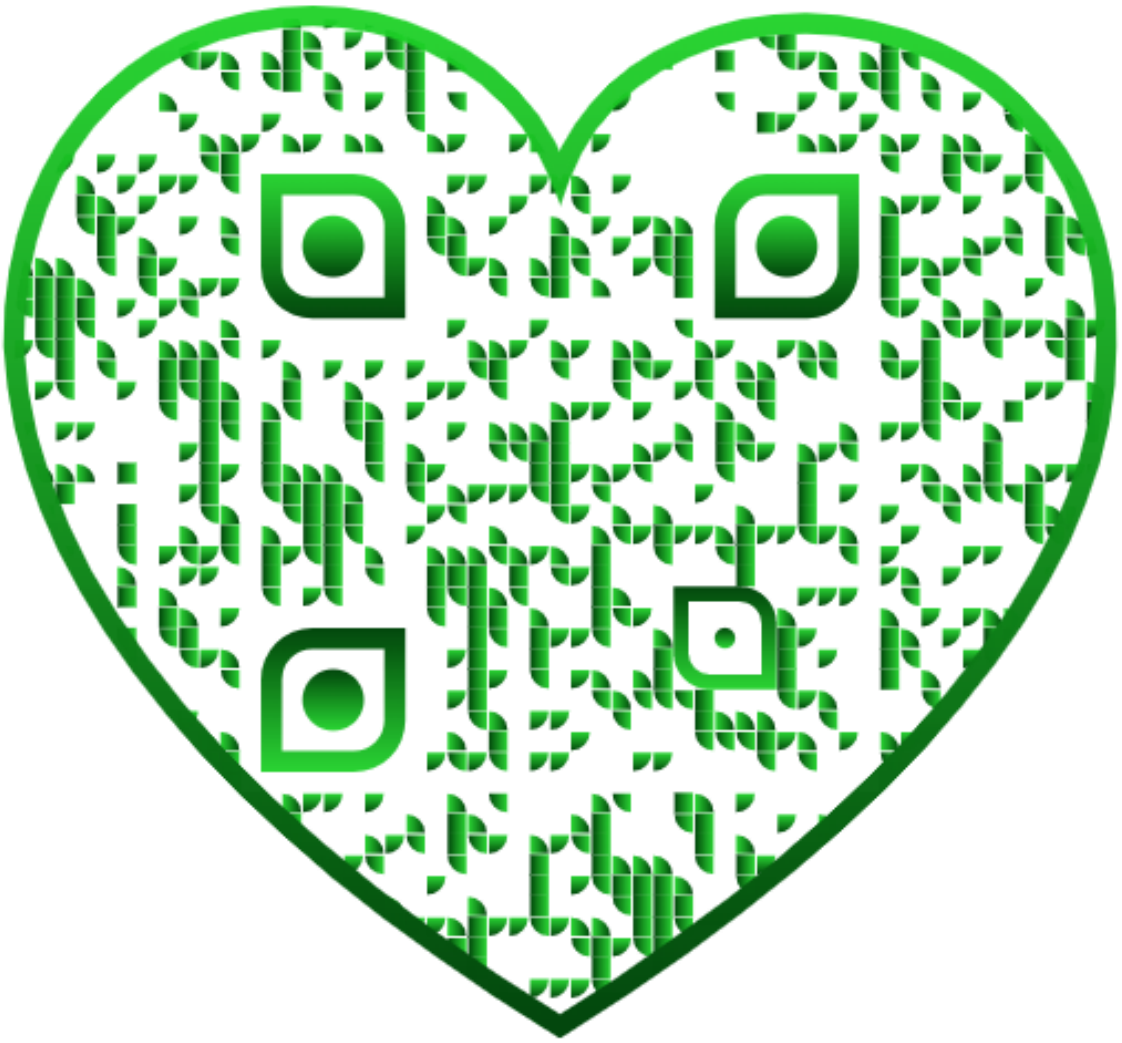
An INCREDIBLE *1990s* TOWNHOUSE RENOVATION

80 FRESH IDEAS FOR A LIGHT *& AIRY HOME*

A GORGEOUS PAUL BANGAY GARDEN



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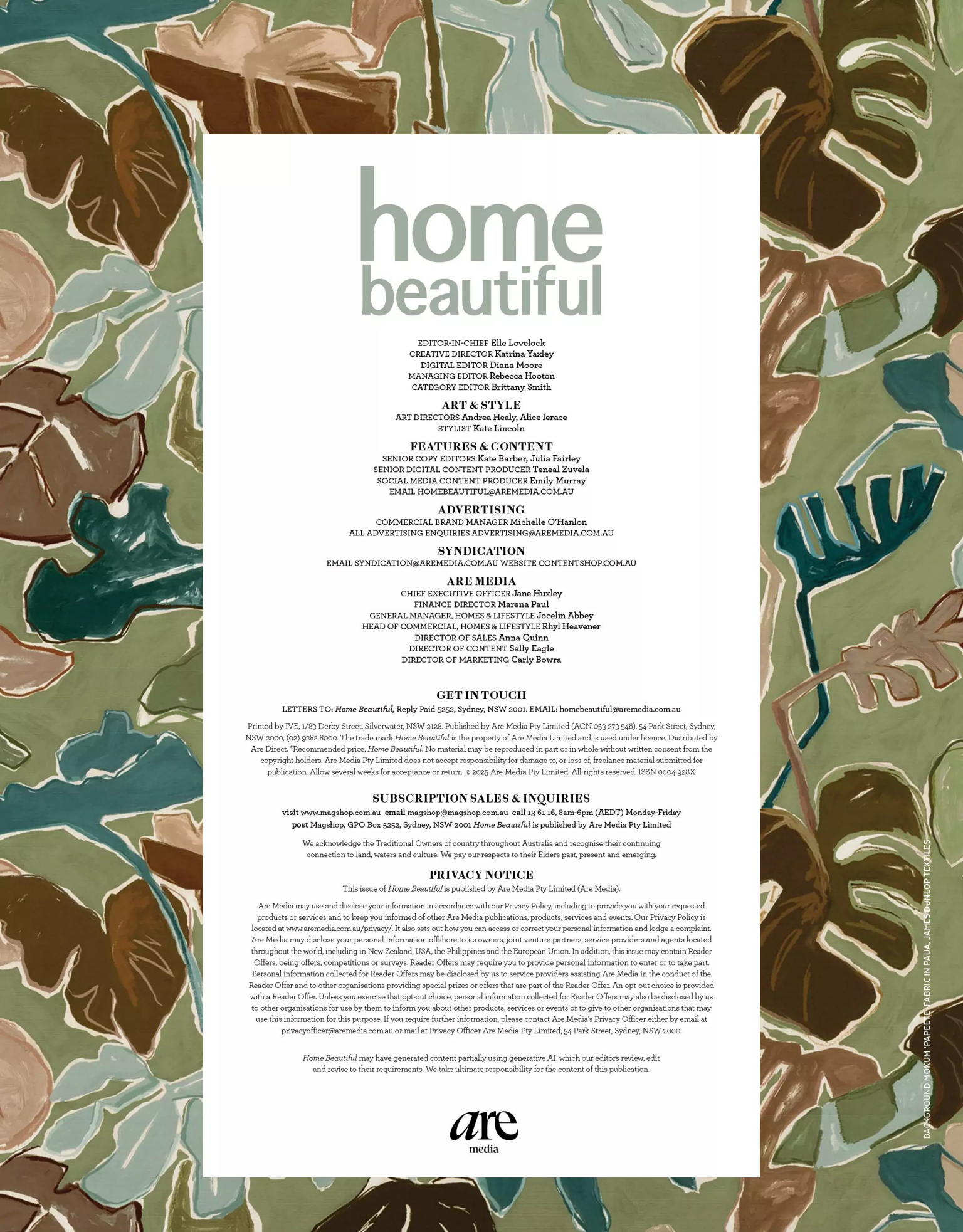

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **Elle Lovelock**
CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Katrina Yaxley**
DIGITAL EDITOR **Diana Moore**
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CATEGORY EDITOR **Brittany Smith**

ART & STYLE

ART DIRECTORS **Andrea Healy, Alice Ierace**
STYLIST **Kate Lincoln**

FEATURES & CONTENT

SENIOR COPY EDITORS **Kate Barber, Julia Fairley**
SENIOR DIGITAL CONTENT PRODUCER **Teneal Zuvela**
SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT PRODUCER **Emily Murray**
EMAIL HOMEBEAUTIFUL@AREMEDIA.COM.AU

ADVERTISING

COMMERCIAL BRAND MANAGER **Michelle O'Hanlon**
ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES ADVERTISING@AREMEDIA.COM.AU

SYNDICATION

EMAIL SYNDICATION@AREMEDIA.COM.AU WEBSITE CONTENTSHOP.COM.AU

ARE MEDIA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER **Jane Huxley**
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GET IN TOUCH

LETTERS TO: ***Home Beautiful,*** Reply Paid 5252, Sydney, NSW 2001. EMAIL: homebeautiful@aremedia.com.au

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BACKGROUND MOKUM 'PAPEETE' FABRIC IN PAUA, JAMES DUNLOP TEXTILES

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ELLE'S TEXTILE OF THE MONTH
The 'Chinkara' viscose-linen fabric in Aquamarine/Juniper by Isla Design is one of the most beautiful animal prints I've ever seen. I can't wait to use it in a project! Find it at Elliott Clarke.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Spring is well and truly here! Though I love winter (every season, actually), there's something magical about this season. Shoots and buds emerging in the garden. Longer, warmer days. And the opportunity to fling open the doors and windows to fill your home with fresh air and sunshine. This issue is full of lovely ideas for spring, from our gorgeous bedlinen roundup on page 51, to the delicious honey-based recipes on page 147. Though honey harvest season is typically late summer and early autumn, spring is when the bees get busy collecting, organising and producing. Much like my own approach to decorating, really!

It's also pre-party season, when thoughts turn to updating the home in preparation for all the hosting that happens in December. While it's too late for most of us to complete a renovation in time for The Big Day (which I'll not reference by name until next issue) it's the perfect time to start planning a project to get started in the new year. With that in mind, flip to page 157 for our special chapter on kitchens, bathrooms and laundries, where you'll find all the inspiration you need.

A bigger project in this issue is our Beautiful Build on page 38 – the incredible renovation of a 1990s townhouse. Homes of this decade often get a bad rap, but undeservedly so in my opinion. This is when classic design reigned supreme. Just think of the popular movies that came from this decade: *Practical Magic*, *Father of The Bride* and *Home Alone*. All fabulous examples of the ultimate '90s family home – a look that is regaining popularity. Mark my word, you'll be seeing design elements such as rattan, creamy whites and rolled-arm sofas everywhere.

Elle Lovelock

ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Get in touch with me on Instagram @ellelovelock

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) PHILLIP CASTLETON

COVER LOOK

A DREAM HOME FOR LAZY DAYS AND BALMY NIGHTS. THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS PAINTED IN WHITE ARE SO FRESH WHILE THE SOFT BLUE SHUTTERS AND TEAL PENDANT ADD JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF COLOUR. LUSH PALMS AND HEDGING FRAME THE ENTRANCE TO PERFECTION. PHOTOGRAPHY: *Carmel Brantley*

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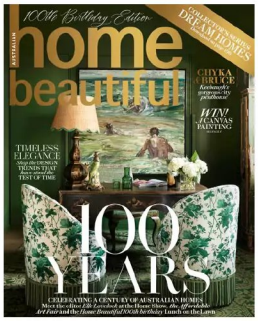

READER LETTERS *and birthday cheer*

"The cover featuring Chyka and Bruce Keebaugh's library has had me in dreamy raptures. The promised treat did not, in any way, disappoint. Thank you for the feature and the inspirations."
Rae, via email

"I'm so glad I treated myself to your fabulous centenary issue. It's just wonderful and a tribute to all of those who are part of this magazine. Congratulations on your outstanding longevity."
Kate, via email

"You've been alongside my life from teenage years dreaming of my own home, raising my family, to grandchildren. 50+ years of loyal reading. Thank you for bringing joy and uplifting spirits."
Suzanne, via instagram

SNAP SHOT

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MAKING OF HOME BEAUTIFUL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY EDITION

Creative director Katrina and editor-in-chief Elle create a 1930s-inspired bathroom

The HB team gather in the studio for a photo to mark the momentous occasion

Past HB editors Wendy Moore, Sarah Ridley Burman & Andrea Duvall with Elle Lovelock

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP LEFT & RIGHT) MARTINA GEMMOLA (BOTTOM) EMILY MURRAY STYLING (TOP LEFT & RIGHT) BELLE HEMMING BACKGROUND 'OAHU' FABRIC IN SEA FOAM, SPIRO STORE.

EDIT

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BEAUTIFUL STYLE

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TINY BUT MIGHTY

Made for the outdoors and perfectly scaled for smaller spaces, Tait's new Rockpool seating range with industrial designer Adam Goodrum shows style comes in every size. Choose from a wide mix of fabrics, frame and rope colours, plus two seat heights. Explore the collection at madebytait.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY MARTINA GEMMOLA

THE EDIT
PAGE 18

STYLE NEWS

THE EDIT

The latest decor drops and noteworthy design finds

EDITED BY REBECCA HOOTON & ALICE IERACE

EARTH BOUND

Armadillo unveils Gaia this month, its debut collaboration with Barcelona-based artist Carla Cascales Alimbau. Minimalist design and earthy pigments come together in six hand-knotted rugs, crafted in India from New Zealand wool, silk, jute and linen. Find them at armadillo-co.com.

Swatch watch

FRESH NEW FABRICS HAVE ARRIVED AT JAMES DUNLOP TEXTILES. THINK TROPICAL FOLIAGE IN MOKUM'S 'PAPEETE', SHOWN IN CLAY (TOP) AND A STORYTELLING TWIST IN THE JAMES DUNLOP 'FABLE' RANGE, SEEN IN HANDBLOCK BASALT (CENTRE) AND KOMODO DRAGON (BOTTOM). FIND THEM ALL AT JAMESDUNLOPTEXTILES.COM.

MAKES *SCENTS*

Ecoya's new Keepsake collection features three scents – labelled 1, 2 and 3 (pictured). Pick a candle or diffuser, then personalise the label with a name, date or special occasion. Head to ecoya.com.au.

Take the floor

If it's not already on your radar, meet BJELIN's Woodura 3.0 Plank (pictured in Hylta). With all the warmth of real timber and superior durability, it's hard to beat. Find in store at Choices Flooring or at choicesflooring.com.au.

CURVE APPEAL

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THROW SHADE

On our wish list this month is the 'Scallop' umbrella from Basil Bangs, bringing pastel delight to sunny days with five sorbet shades including Alpine Green (shown), $849 at basil bangs.com.

Open garden

Wombat Park Estate in Daylesford, Victoria, is opening its historic gardens October 25–26, 2025. Explore sweeping lawns, century-old trees and spring colour. Entry is $30 per person and free for children under 10. For all the details, visit wombatparkestate.com.au.

PHOTOGRAPHY (GAIA X ARMADILLO) JESSIE PRINCE (WOMBAT PARK ESTATE) MARNIE HAWSON (TIM ROSS) JOY LAI/SUPPLIED BY STATE LIBRARY OF NSW

5 minutes with...

TIM ROSS

We chat home ownership with Tim Ross, co-curator of 'The Australian Dream?' exhibition at the State Library of NSW.

What inspired this exhibition?

"I was writing a live show on The Australian Dream when I was talking to the State Library about a collaboration. They asked if I'd be interested in an exhibition component and I jumped at the chance to dive into the archive and find a range of different stories that tell alternative versions of the dream."

Why did owning a home become such a defining part of The Australian Dream?

"It was a lure to supercharge immigration in the postwar period. The idea of sunshine, space and your own patch of dirt was impossible to resist and that desire spread across the country."

How has that dream evolved now home ownership is increasingly out of reach?

"Apartment living is the biggest change. We've also seen people not just moving further out to the suburbs like in the '50s, '60s and '70s, but to the regions, chasing affordability."

What changes do you expect to come in the way Australians live, rent and own?

"I think we will see more built-to-rent [properties], younger people being more mobile, and inter-generational housing becoming the norm."

'The Australian Dream?' exhibition, curated by Tim Ross (pictured) and Anna Dearnley, is showing at State Library of NSW until March 15, 2026.

AT A GLANCE

Who *Janae Paquin-Bowden is a ceramicist and owner of organic flower farm, Fleurs de Lyonville, with her husband Chris.*
Where *At their property in Lyonville, Victoria.*
Why she does it *"I feel complete when I'm working with my hands," says Janae.*
Visit *@janae_paquin bowden_pottery and @fleurs_de_lyonville on Instagram.*

Creative collection

GLAZE OVER

From garden beds to chunks of clay, Janae Paquin-Bowden has carved a fulfilling career from getting her hands dirty

STORY REBECCA HOOTON | PHOTOGRAPHY KATE ENNO

Fired up *Ceramicist Janae (pictured) begins her process by shaping clay forms (below) which are later handpainted and glazed to become urns, tulipieres, mantle vases and flower bricks, among other pieces. Her organic flower farm is the perfect complement, providing vibrant blooms such as cosmos and dahlias to bring her vessels to life.* >

When Janae Paquin-Bowden was searching for flowers for her wedding, she didn't expect to barter livestock. "We ended up trading one of our sheep for wedding flowers," she laughs. But when the florist's van rolled in, bursting with delphiniums, dahlias, hydrangeas and foxgloves, something clicked. "I knew from that moment that I wanted to be a flower farmer."

Today, Janae lives that dream on a property in Lyonville, Victoria, with her husband Chris, their children Gigi, nine, and Atticus, seven, and their Westie x Scottish Terriers, Daphne and Bisous. "I grow flowers during the warmer months and create with clay in the colder months, although there's often a bit of overlap between the two," she explains.

Raised in a small town, Janae spent her early days immersed in nature. "Mum and Dad have always been avid gardeners, and I have plenty of wonderful memories being outside in the veggie patch or in the garden with them," she recalls. "When I wasn't outside, I'd be drawing, painting, or making little craft projects, like blankets for our dog, Brown."

Janae and Chris first met as teachers, but it was their mutual love of being outdoors that truly drew them together. "We bonded over our shared love of the British TV show *River Cottage*, which led us to the countryside," says Janae. After moving to their property, Chris "retired" from his job as a school principal around four years ago to join Janae full time on the farm. "This allowed me some extra time to get back into pottery and that's when I bought my kiln," she shares.

Her delightful vase designs have evolved over the years, through embracing the tactile process and harking back to impactful travels through France and the UK. "That's why you can see elements of European styles, like blue-and-white Delftware and French urns, in my work."

From preparing the clay to making the vases, then glazing, packing and sending out orders, it all unfolds in a home studio filled with light from windows Janae's father helped install. A wood fire keeps the space cosy, while birdsong and blossoms fuel her imagination. "Being surrounded by nature and flowers inspires me throughout the year."

It may be a down-to-earth daily existence, but Janae's had her fair share of pinch-me moments. "Creating vases for the wonderful [florist] Willow Crossley in the UK was a real highlight," she says. "I also have a clothing collaboration coming out in spring, which I can't wait to share!"

Close to home *Only steps from her front door, Janae's studio (pictured) is tucked within the flower farm. It's here she shapes ceramics, while home-grown blooms hang to dry. These will be crafted into wreaths and other decor during workshops.* HB

"Being able to work from home and balance my creative pursuits with family life is truly special" **JANAE**

The Edit

FROM ELLE

Editor-in-chief Elle Lovelock shares how she makes the most of the new season's longer, warmer days

THE LIST

To ensure I make the most of each season, and to inspire excitement about what they each have to offer, I like to make a list of everything I'm looking forward to in the months ahead. I know it sounds a bit woo-woo, but trust me – it brings joy. To me, spring is the season for tea parties (even if it's just me and my son), potting up table-top planters of hyacinth, muscari and moss, and making baby leek tarts from scratch. My favourite flowers are tulips and freesias, and this is when they're at their best. I put them all over the house. Also on the list, a wander through the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, culminating in a tour of the Art Gallery of NSW to see exhibitions old and new. There's nothing like it on a blue-skied 24-degree day.

SPRING CLEAN

On a more practical level, I love stripping back all the layers of winter and giving the contents of my home a good wash! Sofa covers, blankets, cushion covers (on a cold, low-rev setting, of course) – everything gets a refresh. I clear out my wardrobe and pack away the coats and woollens. Kitchen drawers and bathroom vanities get a sort and wipe-down. Cupboards get a vacuum. And windows get their yearly clean. I wish I could say I do them more often, but the truth is – I can't be bothered. I use a mix of bought and homemade cleaning products. Both eco-friendly and economical, I make a multi-purpose spray by mixing ⅓ vinegar with ⅔ water and about 10 drops of lemon essential oil. But I've still not come across a DIY window cleaner as good as the one by Murchison-Hume. It's so good!

FLORAL FANCIES

When the weather warms up, I like to put away my (freshly laundered) chocolate velvet cushion covers and woolly throws and replace them with lighter colours and patterns. This year, I'm branching out into pink – a colour I've never decorated with before. Even as a child, I always had a blue room. I find just a hint of pink, in delicate floral fabrics, is the homeware equivalent of a breath of fresh air. Think blush cushions on white upholstery, icy-pink napkins on natural-coloured linen tablecloths. And it pairs beautifully with green. I'll echo the motif in floral-scented candles. Since the end of winter, I've been burning Da Rosa by Lola James Harper, which is the perfect transeasonal fragrance. Next, I'll move on to Pelargonium odoratissimum by Carrière Frères, which has an exquisite green-leaning floral smell.

From top left 'Lucia Blossom' cushion, $240/50cm x 50cm, Isla Design. 'Lowe' tumblers, $34.95/set of 2, Country Road. Los Encajeros 'Escamas' cocktail napkins in Coral, $130/set of 4, Hopewood Interiors. 'Paulette' lamp, $130, Provincial Home Living. 'Signature' rattan basket, $209/medium, Harolds Finishing Touches. 'Mandray' pot, $495, Provincial Home Living. 'The Fife Arms' book by Dominic Bradbury, $173.09, Amazon. Natio Sun Quick Dry Moisturising sunscreen SPF 50+, $16.95/200ml. (Always read the label and follow the directions for use.) '1977' outdoor sofa, from $4233, King Living. Background fabric: Isla Design Mor Blossom linen, Elliott Clarke.

Under the sun

Since I was a teenager, I've worn sunscreen every single day. But being a particularly pale person, through spring and summer I turn up the volume on sun protection. As a beauty product obsessive, I bounce around from brand to brand and right now I'm really looking forward to trying the (beautyheaven award-winning!) Quick Dry Moisturising sunscreen SPF 50+ from Natio Sun. Warm weather also means mani-pedi season. I've recently ditched the salon appointments and am loving taking the DIY approach with the Essie Gel Couture nail polish in Fairy Tailor (the prettiest sheer pink) and Top Coat for gloss. Honestly, I bought the set on a whim and can't believe how quickly it dries! In five minutes I can do my nails then wash and blowdry my hair an hour later without a single smudge. Impressed.

PHOTOGRAPHY (PORTRAIT) ALANA LANDSBERRY

'ISSA' 9-PIECE RECTANGULAR DINING SETTING $3999; EURO 'MONTANA 1' 6-BURNER OUTDOOR KITCHEN $8999; 'GRACE' LIGHT GREY BORDER RUG LARGE (200 X 290CM) $599.

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‘ESTA’ LEMON OUTDOOR REVERSIBLE CUSHION (45 X 45CM) $29.95; ‘DESERT DUNES’ OUTDOOR RUG (200 X 290CM) $499.

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BEAUTIFUL BUILDS

NEW CONSTRUCTIONS AND STRUCTURAL RENOVATIONS TO INSPIRE

PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM AMIN

LET THE SUNSHINE IN
PAGE 38

Interiors reboot

LET THE SUNSHINE IN

A 1990s townhouse in Sydney's east receives a much-needed upgrade to open it up to the light and bring joy to its owners at every turn

STORY STEPHANIE HOPE | PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM AMIN

Fresh take *When Casey and Andre moved into this home in the eastern suburbs of Sydney with their family, it offered them the ideal abode. "The house was liveable and 'upgradeable', presenting an opportunity for us to buy well and enhance the space according to our tastes," says Casey.*

Timing was everything when Casey and Andre discovered this three-storey townhouse in Sydney's eastern suburbs not long before the birth of their second child. After a year, they embarked on a renovation, engaging Pamment Projects to manage the build, and interior designer Stephanie Chu to elevate the interiors – here's how it all unfolded.

WHY RENOVATE?

The house had all the ingredients to become a forever home for Casey, Andre and their children Huxley, four, Wells, two, and their most recent arrival, baby Annika, six months. But first they had to fix the dated decor and poor layout of small, dark rooms.

Being a townhouse in a larger complex, rebuilding wasn't an option. "Renovating allowed us to remain in harmony with the surrounding homes and respect the heritage of the area while modernising it for family life," says Casey.

PLANNING MAKES PERFECT

Casey and Andre worked closely with Pamment Projects to ensure their plans adhered to the appropriate strata by-laws and council requirements. "We had to be mindful of stricter council requirements given our location in the Woollahra Heritage Conservation Area, as well as strata regulations, ensuring our plans respected both the facade and the building's broader context," says Casey. "The NSW 'Class 2' requirements added an additional layer of administrative complexity when it came to choosing appropriate service providers and navigating the NSW Planning Portal. We spent a good deal of time ensuring our open floor plan was held to elevated structural and fire safety standards." >

GET THE LOOK

From left *'Oyster'* ***sconce*** *in Light/Coast, $725, Robert Gordon. 'Hail'* ***mirror*** *in White, $990, Rachel Donath. Florabelle Living 'Bobbin' oak* ***console table****, $1375, Living Styles. Clay by Catherine* ***pedestal bowl****, $120, Olve. 'Scrolling Fern Silhouette'* ***wallpaper*** *in Cream on Jasper Blue, $1334*/10m roll, Soane Britain. 'Aravelli Rosewood'* ***cushion****, $175/50cm x 50cm, Walter G.*

*ALL INTERNATIONAL PRICES ARE BASED ON CURRENT EXCHANGE RATES AT THE TIME OF PRINTING

TRUSTING THE EXPERTS

While demolition unfolded, the family seized the opportunity to travel to the US for three months, managing the build remotely. Casey credits her talented and efficient design team for making this process so seamless. “We had full confidence in Stephanie and the team at Pamment Projects. Andre is incredibly meticulous, and we kept a tight loop of communication and leaned on photo and video updates, regular WhatsApp calls and collaborative documents to make decisions remotely. It worked because of the trust and systems we had in place and plenty of preparation before leaving.”

Kitchen *Stephanie selected classic fixtures and finishes for this space, including Talostone Arabescato Borghini stone for the splashback and benchtops, Noble Elements hardware in Satin Nickel and a stainless steel Smeg ‘Portofino’ stove. Meanwhile, hardworking storage ensures everything stays calm and clutter-free. >*

COMING UP WITH THE VISION

"The high ceilings, wide staircase and the promise of light from both the front and back courtyard showed us this home had real potential," says Casey.

Working with RODA Architects, Stephanie recommended some key structural changes, including widening and lengthening wall openings between the living, dining and kitchen and relocating the laundry to the lower ground floor to make room for a new guest room and powder room.

Storage was high on Casey's list of requests. "Stephanie asked us to consider anything that we keep accessible, including home goods, pantry items, toys and electronics, to ensure everything had a proper place," she says. "It makes the house feel peaceful and functional, even with three young kids."

DESIGN DELIGHTS

"Decorative trims throughout add an extra layer of dressing and sophistication, and curved elements in the arched openings, walls, benchtops and joinery add softness, fluidity and grace to the interiors," says Stephanie.

Joinery maximises storage while also elevating the overall aesthetic, including bookshelves to display personal objects, and sliding doors to conceal the TV.

Casey lists the new timber floors, stone benchtops, internal French doors and sense of light as some of her favourite inclusions. "It's incredible how significant an impact a renovation can have on your everyday mood. The biggest transformation is how the light fills the home now. It's a considerable upgrade from the dark starting point and lifts your spirits," she says.

Living *Printed fabrics star in the living zone. Curtains in Anna Spiro Textiles 'Izmir' fabric were made by DrapeCo. A Diane Bergeron 'Madeline Slipper' chair is in Peter Dunham 'Samarkand' fabric while a Diane Bergeron 'Minty' sofa features Zepel Fibreguard 'Casual' fabric – both were from Arthur G. A neutral Pottery Barn rug ties it together.* >

BUDGETING FOR THE RENO

With the view of this being their long-term family home, Casey and Andre were prepared to invest in quality. "We set a budget from the start and tried to stay within it by prioritising structural elements including floors, central air, architectural features and cabinetry," says Casey. "The details also make a big impact, so we selected a few components like hardware and fabrics that we loved without going overboard. There are a few fun add-ons that bring us joy every day like a carbonated Zip tap, charging stations and a hands-free garbage bin, whereas we were happy to pass on other elements. We feel happy with where we invested."

She recommends over-asking about the details and spending more time upfront on the planning stages. "This may seem obvious, but stay on top of regular budget updates and request multiple quotes for contracted jobs to limit surprises." For this renovation, Casey and Andre allocated 10 per cent of their budget to planning, 60 per cent for construction, 20 per cent for decorating and 10 per cent for landscaping.

BUILDING TIMELINE

APRIL 2023
HOME PURCHASED

JUNE 2023
PLANS SUBMITTED

OCTOBER 2023
DA APPROVAL OBTAINED

MARCH 2024
INTERIOR DESIGNER ENGAGED

JUNE 2024
CONSTRUCTION BEGAN

SEPTEMBER 2024
PROJECT COMPLETED

ARTWORK CHRISTOPHER JEWITT

INTERIOR PALETTE

KITCHEN BENCHTOP IN TALASTONE ARABESCATO BORGHINI STONE

WINDOW AND DOOR FRAMES IN BENJAMIN MOORE SMOKE

GRAND OAK NOBLE FLOORING IN BALINESE OAK, AUSTRALIAN SELECT TIMBERS

WALLS IN DULUX VIVID WHITE

JAMES HARDIE 'HARDIE GROOVE' WALL LINING

Entry foyer *A Florabelle Living 'Bobbin' console (try Living Styles) displays a vase from Parterre in the entry (this page), with Robert Gordon 'Oyster' sconces adorning the walls.* ***Dining*** *The Fform dining table is paired with the couple's existing chairs and sits atop a Hali rug, with a Bloomingdales Lighting pendant suspended above.* ›

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Stephanie Chu Interiors, stephaniechuinteriors.com.*
Builder *Pamment Projects, pammentprojects.com.au.*
Architect *RODA Architects, rodaarchitects.com.au.*
Joinery *10x Joinery Solutions, 10xjoinery.com.au.*

Powder room *A Soane Britain 'Scrolling Fern Silhouette' wallpaper is a feature of the new powder room (opposite), along with the Talostone Arabescato Borghini vanity benchtop and Rachel Donath 'Hail' mirror. The Villeroy & Boch basin and Brodware 'City Stik' tapware are elegant additions.*

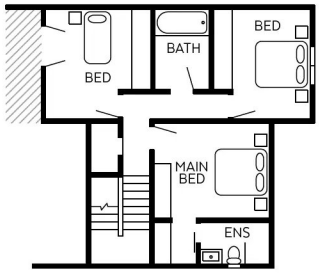
ADDING PROPERTY VALUE

"Every detail has been thought through to maximise the layout, from storage to seating to lighting and air flow. It's added both financial value and everyday liveability," says Casey.

Stephanie adds, "The new layout maximises practicality and use of every inch of space, ensuring fluidity and ease – essential factors for a growing family. A well-considered floor plan and natural light are top priorities for buyers, and the addition of a fourth bedroom is a gamechanger from a value standpoint." HB

FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR



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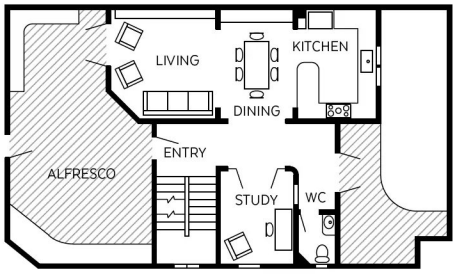
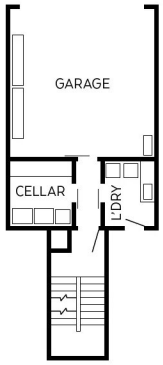


LOWER GROUND FLOOR



ARTWORKS ARTISTS UNKNOWN

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PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER STYLING LISA BURDON. PRODUCT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

BEDTIME STORY
PAGE 52

Bedtime story

As you move your bed into summer mode, start with new sheets in bright colours, pretty florals or bold patterns

COMPILED BY KATRINA YAXLEY

Add gorgeous pattern to your sleep zone, whether it's on the bedhead, cushions or bedding and don't be afraid to use different motifs in the same space. Tie them all together through another element, such as colour, to create a cohesive feeling. >

PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER STYLING LISA BURDUS

"I LOVE THE ELEGANCE OF *layering a bed* WITH A TOP SHEET, BLANKET AND QUILT"

LISA BURDUS, STYLIST

'Oli' Australian cotton quilt cover in Pear, $189/double, Country Road.
'Polkadot' organic cotton quilt cover in Cactus, $219/queen, Kip&Co.
Organic cotton sheet set in Moss, $250/queen, Bed Threads.
"TO GET THAT PLUMP-CUSHION and lofty-quilt look I ALWAYS GO FOR DOWN OR FAUX-FEATHER FILL"
ELLE LOVELOCK, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
'Laney' floral coverlet in Elm, $279/queen, West Elm.
French flax linen double-sided quilt cover in Ivy/Ivy Stripe $350/queen, I Love Linen.
Morgan & Finch 'Cordelia' flannelette sheet set in Sage/Ivory, $139.99, Bed Bath n' Table.

A harmonious palette need not be too 'matchy-matchy'. In fact, as long as you're in the same colour family, you can even combine warm and cool undertones. Here, Dulux Sutherland pairs with khaki green on the bedspread. >

PHOTOGRAPHY MARNIE HAWSON

The secret to adding an extra layer of interest to a room is to weave in texture. Here, a bright orange lamp shade, patterned ruffled valance and VJ groove on the wall – painted in a vibrant mustard – all impart textures you can reach out and touch. HB

PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER STYLING LISA BURDUS

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TOP 10

COLOUR ME HAPPY

Add a touch of fun to your next soiree with one of these cocktail jugs

COMPILED BY ALICE IERACE

Clockwise from top *'Vivi'* ***jug*** *in Jade, $69.95, Country Road. Ichendorf Milano 'Botanica'* ***jug*** *in Lavender, $99.95, David Jones. Porto 'Fiesta'* ***swizzle sticks****, $29.99/set of 4, Temple & Webster. Luisa Beccaria ridged purple glass* ***pitcher****, $550, Emporean. Two tone* ***pitcher*** *in Pink/Amber, $149, Fazeek. Aperitif* ***jug****, $169, Maison Balzac. 'Party Speckle' water* ***jug****, $99, Kip & Co. Ichendorf Milano blue handle* ***jug****, $39.95, David Jones.* ***Jug*** *in Blue, $159/XL, Hay. Laguna~B 'Berlingot Evo'* ***jug*** *in Blue/Marine Green, $750, Pan After.*

BEAUTY

STATE OF THE ART

Bring salon-style beauty home with intelligent tools that deliver a professional finish

STYLING KATE LINCOLN | PHOTOGRAPHY PHILLIP CASTLETON

1. Bondi Boost Infrared Long Barrel Bounce ***brush****, $180, Salon Shop.* ***2.*** *Everlast Airstyler System hair* ***styling kit****, $299, Bondi Boost.* ***3.*** *Dr Naomi LED It Glow light therapy* ***mask****, $645, Sephora.* ***4.*** *Plump Up 0.5mm* ***microneedle****, $98, Trinny London.* ***5.*** *Dual red and blue light Pro* ***LED Wand*** *in Black, $249, Lonvitalité.* ***6.*** *Glide hair* ***straightening brush*** *in Pink Sorbet, $285, GHD.* ***7.*** *BeautyBio GloPRO Facial* ***Microneedling*** *Regeneration Tool kit, $328, Mecca.* ***8.*** *Brightening LED Face* ***Mask****, $795, Sonna.*

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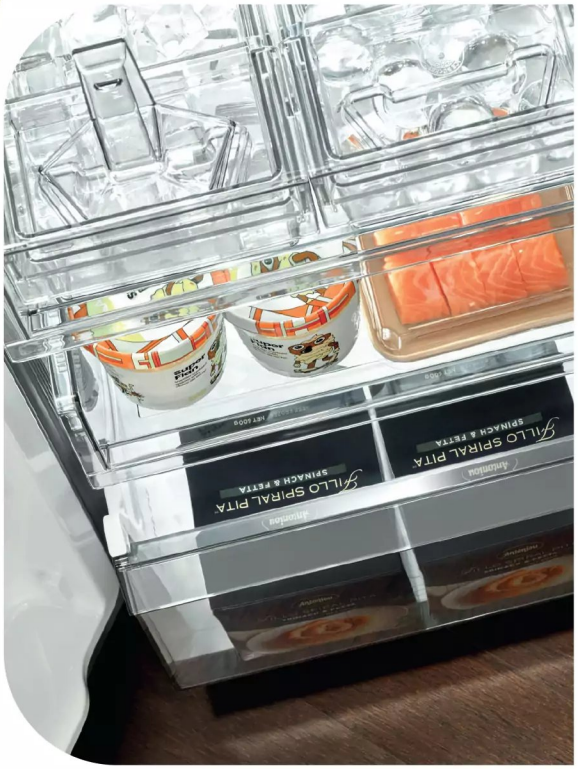

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Style direction

COLOUR COLLECTIVE

Inspired by global trends and local design, the Dulux Colour Forecast 2026 features three curated palettes

Since its launch in 1999, the Dulux Colour Forecast has been synonymous with global art, design and social trends, reflecting both local and collective moods. The Colour Forecast has become a trusted guide for designers, architects and homeowners alike.

This year, the Forecast presents a suite of calming and connecting colours that rise in response to continued global uncertainty and digital fatigue. The Ethereal, Elemental and Evoke palettes champion warm earth-based neutrals, rich burnt oranges, caramels, and greens such as moss and spearmint. Soft pinks and vintage rose tones also feature, alongside tender pastels and muted berry shades.

Dulux Colour and Design Manager Lauren Treloar says there is a strong shift towards emotional reconnection – with ourselves and with nature which she believes translates into a need for warm, calming interiors that encourage reflection and joy.

"Amongst the most notable changes this year is the rising dominance of spearmint green, complemented by soft pinks that pair beautifully with browns and burgundies," says Treloar.

"The Ethereal palette picks up these joyful colours and this beautiful living space shows how elegant they can look."

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BEAUTIFUL HOMES

THE STORIES, STYLE AND LOVE THAT MAKE A HOME BEAUTIFUL

PHOTOGRAPHY CARMEL BRANTLEY

ENDLESS SUMMER
PAGE 72

ENDLESS SUMMER

Inspired by a nearby abode in Florida, USA, a couple built their forever home and captured the spirit of summer, all year round

STORY JULIA FAIRLEY | STYLING BRIANNA WASHBURN | PHOTOGRAPHY CARMEL BRANTLEY

Beachside bliss *When Laing and Sandy bought a block of land in Palm Beach, Florida, they knew exactly what kind of home they wished to build, right down to the teal shutters and detailed fretwork on the facade (this page & opposite). Three generations now enjoy holidays here, in what has since become a much-loved retreat.* >

Picturing your home from lines on a floor plan can feel like venturing into the unknown. But for one lucky couple, Laing and Sandy, who bought a vacant lot in Palm Beach, Florida, they knew precisely what their unbuilt home would be like. In a sense, they'd been there before.

"A local builder had constructed a beautiful home nearby, and Laing, Sandy and I toured that house and loved everything about it," says interior designer Caitlin Kah. "The builder and I reached out to the architects, and they agreed to take that floor plan, make a few tweaks and rescale it for this land."

Using the same architect and builder, alongside Caitlin who had previously designed a pied-à-terre for the couple, plans were drawn up in record time. "It expedited things," says Caitlin. "Laing and Sandy could envision what their home would look like; they knew what it would feel like. They were confident about building the house, as they had kind of already seen it."

The couple's dream run continued when their local council swiftly approved the plans – "a pleasant surprise," says Sandy wryly. Even construction progressed quickly, as a reassuring sense of déjà vu unfurled on site for the architect, builder and designer. "It was a quick build, because everyone already knew what the house was going to look like," explains Caitlin.

The interior gave Laing and Sandy a chance to be playful with pattern and courageous with colour, adding bejewelled hues to the design, which Caitlin introduced in a carefully tempered way. "They have fun taste, but as this is their home, it had to be really liveable, functional and comfortable. For some of our other clients, who may only spend a few months a year holidaying in Palm Beach, we can be a little crazier, because they want to feel really immersed when they're here."

Just like the sandy beaches nearby, warm whites and neutrals form the interior backdrop, bolts of blue call to the ocean, vivid reds gleam like coral, and greens usher the outdoors in. Texture fills each room, from sisal underfoot and grasscloth walls to bigger, bolder forms as seen in the coffered ceilings.

The result is a summery sanctuary, beloved by three generations of family, where Laing and Sandy's children and grandchildren can escape the winter cold; a home that feels as warm as the tropical paradise that surrounds it. HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

Living *Offset wall panelling adds a sea of texture with grasscloth coffered ceilings, custom seating and a vast rug (for similar sisal, try International Floorcoverings). Laing's dad originally owned the piano and the couple installed a player. "It plays itself beautifully," says Sandy. For a similar chandelier, try Lighterior 'Sash' pendant; for a similar side table, try Abacus and Hunt 'Drum' side table.* >

ARTWORK UNKNOWN ARTIST

Kitchen *A quintessentially coastal palette defines the kitchen, fitted with Sub-Zero Wolf appliances (try Winnings) for the keen hosts. "The family room and kitchen are the heart and soul of our house where everyone hangs out," says Sandy. Urban Electric Co pendants (try Bloomingdales Lighting) light the island, while stools (for similar, try 'Le Jardin' stools at Naturally Cane) invite cosy chats without encroaching on precious cooking space.*

INSIDE STORY
Laing & Sandy's home

Who lives here? *Laing and her husband Sandy, a couple with a blended family whose adult children and grandchildren often visit.*
Your favourite room? *Laing: "I love the study, with all of our family photos. Caitlin started with an old Persian rug and designed the wonderfully textured space, where we love to escape."*
How do you like to entertain at home? *Sandy: "I love our big Margarita Madness cocktail parties in the backyard by the pool with a band and lots of family and friends." Laing: "An intimate dinner of four or six around the banquette in the family room is magical. When the weather is good, we love dinner parties under the pergola."*
Weekend ritual you love? *Sandy: "Hanging out by the pool playing with our grandkids."* >

Study *"My favourite room is the study," shares Caitlin of this bejewelled space, stately with cedar joinery (top left). "The whole room was inspired by Laing and Sandy's rug; we pulled the reds from there. It's a classic Palm Beach study, but with a twist." She furnished the room with a Lee Industries ottoman and sofa (top right), and added tactile touches with a woven lamp from Memoire Design, topped by a Bunny Williams shade (bottom left). Beneath a Visual Comfort pendant, a backdrop of Holland & Sherry 'Chalus' wallpaper links the room with the rest of the home (bottom right & opposite). "Patterned grasscloth wallpaper is like a white wall in Palm Beach; it's almost like our neutral," says Caitlin. "We took that idea and went above and beyond, choosing a textured paper with pattern on top."* >

"WE WANT PEOPLE TO EXHALE WHEN THEY WALK IN THE DOOR; TO FEEL INCREDIBLY COMFORTABLE AND RELAXED" LAING

Guest bedroom *"Laing is so chic and classic, she'll wear something really unexpected mixing old and new, so in the pink room we added the patterned headboard in Christopher Farr Cloth and their old claw-foot chair to tap into that," says Caitlin of one of the guest rooms (top left & top right).* ***Bathroom*** *Serena & Lily 'Palmetto' papers the walls in the bathroom (bottom left) near a wave-edge mirror (try Laura Kincade) and Visual Comfort sconces (try The Montauk Lighting Co).* ***Powder room*** *Resplendent in Pierre Frey wallpaper, the powder room (bottom right) makes a statement.* ***Main bedroom*** *A Ro Sham Beaux chandelier crowns the couple's room (opposite).* >

"WE WANTED THE AMBIENCE OF OUR BEDROOM TO FEEL VERY TRANQUIL AND SOOTHING"

LAING

ARTWORK ARTIST UNKNOWN

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Caitlin Kah Interiors, caitlinkah.com.*
Architecture *Fairfax & Sammons Architecture, fairfaxandsammons.com.*
Builder *Beacon Construction Group, beaconconstructiongroup.com.*

Alfresco "The funny thing about this house is that it doesn't have a dining room," shares Caitlin. "Instead, the family spend a lot of time outside around the pool and in the pergola; the pergola is like their dining room. It's always fun to host a dinner party in a space that's not a traditional dining room and it's really dreamy here at night." Hand-painted ceramic pool tiles skirt the watermark, against the fresh, white backdrop of the pool house.

Drama class

A joyful, light-filled terrace in Sydney's Inner West is as distinctly individual as its colourful owner

STORY CHRIS PEARSON | STYLING JAMEE DEAVES | PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN COHEN

Let there be light *Despite being a terrace with no windows along the sides, there is plenty of light flooding into this home owned by Jenny who works in theatre – thanks in part to skylights that allow light to stream down from above. The light's progress is helped even further by a cutout in the nib wall beside the living and dining area. Two artworks by Tamara Dean (opposite) welcome visitors at the entrance while a prized Sidney Nolan (this page) hangs above the fireplace beside a bold russet Moooi 'Hana' swivel armchair from Space that matches the tones in the 'Day Sunrise' rug from Rill + Stone.* >

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION
ARTWORK (OPPOSITE, ABOVE FIREPLACE) 'SUGAR REFINERY' BY HUANG HE

With her grandmother's kimono on her bedroom wall, her grandfather's bookshelves and a sunny artwork that reminded her of home when she lived in the Big Apple, this terrace in Sydney's Inner West has a special resonance for its owner, Jenny. Reflecting her job in theatre, it's imbued with her bubbly personality – and, yes, a little drama, too.

She bought the home in 2004. "I loved the harbour views and light streaming in," she says. An '80s renovation had produced a bright rear extension and a third level in the attic space, but also a few oddities. "A stained-glass window in the bathroom opened to the main bedroom and there was a raised sandstone garden bed in the kitchen under a skylight," she says.

From 2011, she moved to New York for a decade. On her return, the terrace looked tired and its granite benches and black bathrooms dated. Its quirks had begun to jar.

Another bugbear of the 1980s extension was that the kitchen and main bedroom were not level with the original floors. But least welcome of all the issues was rising damp. Jenny called in architect and interior designer Brooke Aitken of Brooke Aitken Design to help. In her brief to Brooke and colleague Vivian Ma in 2021, as well as ironing out those quirks Jenny wanted a main bedroom retreat, by turning the main bathroom into a luxurious ensuite. An ensuite and walk-in robe in the second bedroom would become a guest bathroom.

The study and attic had to double as guest rooms. "It was really important that I had very comfortable fold-out couches in my study and the attic," says Jenny. And she specified pops of funky colour throughout.

Generous walls ensure gallery space for Jenny's artworks. "The family collects art and it's an integral part of their lives," says Brooke. "This was an unwritten part of the brief. We have given her an extensive canvas for her art." Pops of red, Jenny's favourite colour, are like dabs of paint on that canvas. "We used wild colours in the living room rug, the dining room pendant, the swivel armchair, the courtyard and the powder room," says Brooke.

"It feels so homely," says Vivian. "Jenny is surrounded by her much-loved objects and pops of colour." HB ***For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.***

Hallway *Jenny (pictured this page) pauses for a moment beside her cherished 'Fruitfulness' and 'Passion' artworks by Tamara Dean.* ***Dining*** *The LZF 'Swirl' suspension light from Ke-Zu makes a statement in the dining area (opposite) above a Miniforms 'Juice' dining table from Design Nation, and Kett 'Karm' dining chairs from Cosh Living. A Vitra 'Akari 10A' floor lamp from Living Edge is a pared-back addition.* >

INSIDE STORY
Jenny's home

Who lives here?
Jenny, who works in theatre, and her cat, Smeagol.

Favourite things?
Jenny: "My travertine kitchen bench. I love the wave patterns – they're a neutral in colour, but not in feeling. I love my lighting fixtures – every lighting fixture was chosen to be a theatrical element in that room."

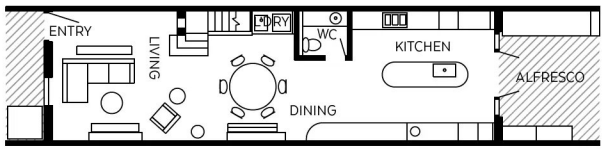
Where do you spend your time?
"I meal prep on the weekend, so I'll spend hours in the kitchen with the TV on making food for the week ahead, so it is great to have a big island and tons of bench space. When relaxing, I'll curl up with Smeagol and read a book."

ARTWORK 'SUNSHOWER' BY FREDERIC BATES

Kitchen *Jenny adores her new kitchen, with its endless storage – it's even under that smart banquette – and its Zena travertine benchtop from Artedomus. The Nemo Lighting 'Lampe de Marseille' wall lamp from Nook Collections and the custom cushion, in Vista pigmented leather from Instyle, make this a favourite spot to catch up with friends with a cuppa. And, with the Ethnicraft 'Torsion' dining table from Trit House, it's also an informal meals area. Joinery in Dulux Hog Bristle half strength.* >

FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR



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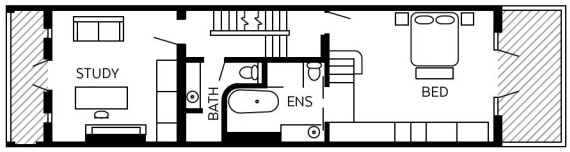
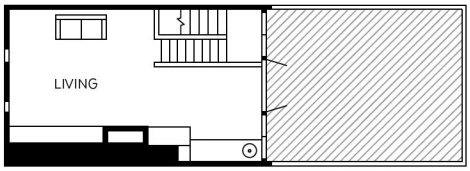


SECOND FLOOR



Study/guest bedroom *The 'Fire Dreaming' artwork, by Alison Anderson Nampitjinpa Nelson creates an aura of cosy warmth in the study. A 'Polly' desk from Workshopped and Kett 'Karm' chair from Cosh Living sit under a stylish 'Nelson Saucer Crisscross Bubble' pendant from Living Edge. The Rill + Stone 'Summer Blue' rug, Arte 'Gioco' textured wallpaper from Unique Fabrics and 'Contour Piece' metal sculpture from Ferm Living complement the original fireplace. Doors in Dulux Murray Red.* >

“IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE HOME FELT WELCOMING”
JENNY

Main bedroom *Jenny brought her Jonathan Adler Giraffe bedside lamp back from New York and it sits atop her 'Orbit' bedside table from Fanuli in her bedroom (this page, top left and opposite). The bedhead, bench and cushion are custom.* ***Ensuite*** *Instead of being a shared bathroom, this ensuite (this page, top right and bottom left) is now Jenny's personal space, due to a tweaking of the floor plan. A Kado 'Neue' freestanding bath from Reece takes pride of place in the centre of the room while a 'Clay 340' basin from Robert Gordon contrasts with the Carrara marble benchtop from Avant Stone. Vase from Ivy Lane.*

SOURCE BOOK

Architecture & interior design
Brooke Aitken Design, brookeaitkendesign.com.au.
Builder *Sydney Renovation Specialists, 0420 312 141.*
Joinery *Styline Kitchens, stylinekitchens.com.au.*

WE LOVE... *funky wallpaper*

Don't always play it safe if you want decor that sings, as the walls in the main bedroom prove. "The builders weren't sure about that custom swirly wallpaper from Maak Home and said, 'Are you sure this is going to work?'" confesses Brooke. But neither she nor Jenny were deterred. "Yes, it was incredibly risky, but it works."

New beginnings

This home with good bones in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs was elegantly reimagined for a young family of four

STORY REBECCA HOOTON | STYLING BREE OLIVER | PHOTOGRAPHY SUE STUBBS

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

Making memories *"We bought our home from another family who had lived here for about 40 years," says homeowner Kathryn (pictured opposite with daughter Sophie). Following an extensive renovation, the house is now ready for its next chapter. "We look forward to many years of happy memories." The refreshed entry foyer features De Marque Oak herringbone floors in Ash Grey from Preference Floors. Walls in Dulux Natural White Half contrast with a Feast Watson Black Japan stain on the stair treads. A table is styled with temple jars (this page), all by The Classic Outfitter.* >

It started with a stair runner. Kathryn had fallen in love with one she'd seen online – Hartley & Tissier, laid with precision on a staircase in a home designed by The Classic Outfitter – and knew it would be perfect in her house. "I hadn't appreciated how difficult it would be to lay on the curves of our staircase," she says with a laugh. "But the installer did a fantastic job."

That attention to detail echoes throughout this refreshed harbourside home, where Kathryn lives with her husband and their two young children – Sophie, four, and Alexander, two. What was meant to be a quick kitchen and bathroom update soon evolved into something bigger. "A new build might have been easier!" jokes Kathryn. Though the original bones and structure were retained, almost every surface was reimagined with care.

The family had moved into the home shortly after Alexander was born, drawn to the leafy suburb's proximity to beaches, schools and local parks. "It's a wonderful place for the kids to grow up," says Kathryn, who's enjoying a career break from corporate law to focus on family life. A passion for classic interiors – particularly the work of design duo Georgia Boyd and Merian Migliore at The Classic Outfitter – set the tone for this transformation.

"We wanted the home to feel timeless, but still practical for our young children," explains Kathryn. Shades of blue and white topped her wishlist, along with wainscoting on the walls and classic cornices, all now proudly in place. "I'm delighted to have them in our home," she says.

With Georgia's help, the layout was reconfigured to suit the family's needs. The former main bedroom became Sophie's, while two other bedrooms and an adjoining office nook were merged to create the serene main suite, complete with a walk-in wardrobe, sitting area and water views.

Andreas Sdrolias and his team at Atlantis Building Constructions helped bring the vision to life after Kathryn spotted his work nearby. And architect Andrew Tzannes from Smith & Tzannes, along with The Garden Bug, which continues to maintain the landscaping, rounded out the dream team.

Naturally, there were a few surprises along the way. The original floorboards, which the couple had planned to sand and polish, turned out to be structurally unsound. What began as a setback turned into one of the home's standout features: elegant ash grey herringbone boards were laid downstairs, paired with matching linear boards upstairs, both visible from the central staircase. "I love the visual interest it has created," says Kathryn.

Looking back, the renovation was far more stressful and time-consuming than Kathryn imagined at the outset – but also more rewarding. "It's worth it in the end!" she says. "It's a real joy to see all the ideas come to life." HB

For more stunning homes, visit www.homebeautiful.com.au.

Entry *The entry is defined by a sweeping staircase (this page & opposite), finished with a Hartley & Tissier 'Transat PNT 16' runner. The stairs wrap around a large Chapman & Myers 'Darlana' lantern in Aged Iron from The Montauk Lighting Co, while a smaller version lights the porch above Eco Outdoor 'Garonne' floor tiles.* >

INSIDE STORY
Kathryn's home

Who lives here? *Kathryn, her husband and their two children, Sophie, 4, and Alexander, 2.*

What did you learn from the renovation? *Kathryn: "The value of taking the time to see and feel samples in person – not always relying on what you can see online – whether it's a marble slab for the kitchen, or fabric samples for soft furnishings."*

Which space is your favourite? *"It's so hard to pick one! Probably the kitchen and casual dining area – the heart of our home, where we spend a lot of time with our children."*

What advice would you give someone planning a renovation? *"Take the time to find a designer who has the right aesthetic for you and who is also keen to design something practical, which will suit your family and day-to-day life."*

ARTWORK EMILY PRESTON

Living *The formal lounge room is a refined space, layered with graceful details. Bespoke joinery by The Classic Outfitter in Porter's Paints Obsidian sets a moody backdrop, illuminated by a Visual Comfort 'Flemish' double sconce in Aged Iron from Laura Kincade. A custom sofa, upholstered in Raffles Textiles 'Waterloo' fabric in Blue, anchors the room alongside a leather ottoman, both sourced from The Classic Outfitter. The 'Jaipur' rug in Baltic from The Rug Collection adds depth underfoot, while the original fireplace has been thoughtfully updated for modern living. Cushions in Ralph Lauren Home 'Tonya Floral' fabric in Midnight bring a final flourish.* >

Dining *"We love hosting Christmas with family and dinner parties with friends in this room," says Kathryn of the dining room (top). A wall of custom antiqued mirrors by The Classic Outfitter reflect botanical prints and visually enlarge the space. 'Hampton' pendants from Magins Classical Lighting in Antique Brass with Off-White Linen shades crown the space. A Hooker Furniture 'Archivist' trestle table joins Audrey dining chairs upholstered in luxe Wedgewood velvet, all from The Classic Outfitter. In the corner, a 'Martha Demilume' table from Highgate House adds a decorative touch (bottom left).* ***Living*** *The informal living area (opposite) is framed with curtains in James Dunlop Textiles 'Keystone' fabric in Swan, made and installed by Nuevue. At the centre, a 'Baxter Platform' coffee table from GlobeWest sits atop a 'Tuscan Quartz Sisal' rug by International Floor Coverings, bringing texture and warmth.*

WE LOVE... *classic colour combinations*

"We've always loved blue and white, and these colours feature heavily in our home," says Kathryn. White sets the stage throughout with strong blue focal points, such as the 'Scarlett' occasional chairs from The Classic Outfitter, upholstered in Villa Nova 'Calvia' fabric (this page). These are layered with plump, patterned cushions in a Fabricut 'Loire' print in Chambray. The living room is styled with a mix of pieces in the same colour palette from the owners' collection, the designer's range and Orient House. For details, see orienthouse.com.au. >

ARTWORKS (THIS PAGE) EMILY PERSSON (OPPOSITE) THE CLASSIC OUTFITTER

"THERE IS SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL ABOUT WALKING THROUGH THE HOUSE AND PAYING ATTENTION TO ALL THE THINGS WE TOOK A LOT OF CARE TO SELECT"

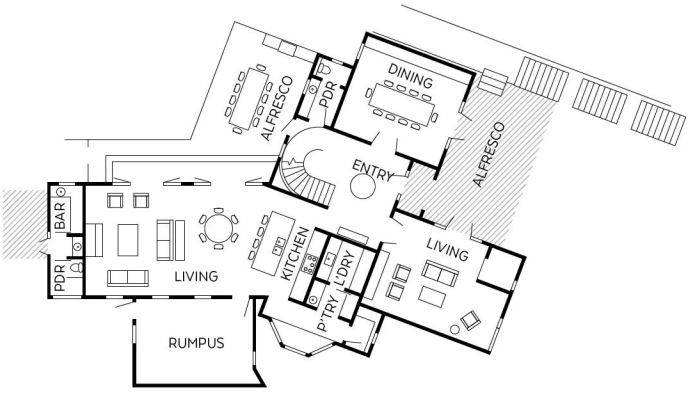
KATHRYN

Kitchen *Custom cabinetry by Kalo Joinery in Dulux Natural White Half pairs with the timeless Carrara marble benchtops and splashback. A 'Gloucester' pendant in Antique Nickel from Magins Classical Lighting hangs atop the island, with stools from The Classic Outfitter upholstered in Villa Nova 'Calvia' fabric in Harbour. Tapware is by Perrin & Rowe from The English Tapware Co, the large artwork is by Julz Beresford and the collected epicurean pieces are from Project Gallery.* >

ARTWORKS (OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) JESSICA GUNNING, KATE HOPKINSON-POINTER, SOPHIE ROSE, SUSANNA [illegible] HOPKINSON-POINTER

FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR



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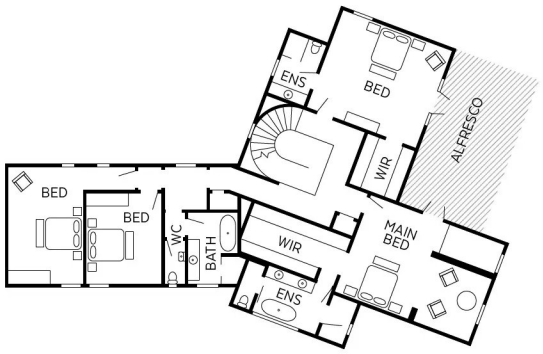


Main bedroom *Designers Guild 'Astor' bedlinen in Denim pairs with a Restoration Hardware quilt in the couple's room (top left). A Schumacher 'Sandoway Vine' floral fabric cushion in Delft tones with the matching 'Otto' bedhead and 'Savoy' storage ottoman at the foot of the bed, both Warwick Fabrics 'Husk' in Amalfi, and all sourced by The Classic Outfitter. The mirror and lamp are from the designers; the 'Aime' bedside table in Chalk is from La Maison.* ***Powder room*** *'Basketweave' floor mosaics in Carrara and Thassos marble and Thibaut 'Allaire' wallpaper in Aqua feature in the chic powder room (bottom left). A 'Hulton' sconce in Polished Nickel from The Montauk Lighting Co complements Hepburn Hardware 'Halifax' handles.* ***Pool*** *The original pool tiles were navy, though the designers steered Kathryn towards a lighter tile (opposite). "It's so fresh and inviting; it shines through the water as a lovely, very pale blue," she says of the 'White Russian' pool tiles from Europe Imports. "We also added an oversized shallow pool step for our young children. It's a nice spot for adults to sit, too!" A Nuevue awning shades the Eco Outdoor 'Garonne' pavers, 'Sorrento' Abide Interiors bar stools and Astra Walker outdoor shower.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *The Classic Outfitter, theclassicoutfitter.com.*
Architecture *Smith & Tzannes, smithtzannes.com.au.*
Builder *Atlantis Building Constructions, atlantisbuilding.com.au.*

100 *Beautiful* ROOMS

Step inside this curated collection of spaces by distinguished designers, whose dreamy interiors are in a league of their own

PRODUCED BY KATRINA YAXLEY | WORDS CHRIS PEARSON

Welcome to the third and final instalment of 100 Beautiful Rooms, a spectacular showcase of interior design, which marks the centenary of *Home Beautiful*. Where will interior design be 100 years from now? Odds are, it will look very different, just as those interiors of 1925 bear little resemblance to what you see in the following pages. But then, the past permeates both the present and future in subtle and often surprising ways…

1 DREAM WEAVER

An 'alpine luxe' aesthetic informed the refurbishment of this 1970s home on the Mornington Peninsula by Kate Walker of KWD. The dining area features a custom table from Coastal Living, paired with ladder-back chairs from Big Chair and a 'Bident' pendant from Porcelain Bear. An artwork by Elena Zhao hangs above a woven bench from Barefoot Gypsy, while a Neil Williams work sits atop the console table. ***KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au.*** >

PHOTOGRAPHY MARTINA GEMMOLA STYLING ANNALESE HAY ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

PHOTOGRAPHY PABLO VEGA STYLING JACK MILENKOVIC ARTWORKS (LEFT) 'DARLING STREET' (RIGHT) BY THE RUSSELL 'BOTH BY CATHERINE WATKINS

2 OH SO VEIN

A feast of finishes is on the menu in the freshly renovated Sydney home of interior designer Lauren Mahoney, founder of Studio Trio. The kitchen teams Shaker-style joinery in Taubmans Dapple Grey with Intrim VJ wall panelling and vividly veined Arabescato Corchia marble benchtops from Architectural Stone Works. Brass spices up the palette, with Perrin & Rowe tapware in Satin Brass from The English Tapware Company, and 'Hull' pendants and 'Audley' sconces, all from The Urban Electric Company. Piccolo Chevron flooring in Raba Eterno from Tongue & Groove grounds the space. *Studio Trio, studiotrio.com.au.* >

"COLOUR MAKES YOU FEEL WELCOMED, UPLIFTED AND JOYOUS. ONCE YOU LIVE WITH IT, YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT" **ANNA SPIRO**

3 INTO THE BLUE

We can always rely on Brisbane-based designer Anna Spiro to take us on an inspired fairytale-like journey of colour and pattern, and the living room in this apartment conversion is no exception (this page). Depicting sea, sand and sky, the fanciful De Gournay 'Island Garden' wallpaper, Anna's own design, sets the mood. The yellow window frames and architraves are a burst of sunshine against an expanse of blue, including floorboards finished in Porter's Paints Blue Reef. The cushions, in Manuel Canovas 'Villars' fabric in the Caraibes colourway, lend order and symmetry to the seemingly random spectacle on the walls. ***Anna Spiro Design, annaspirodesign.com.au.***

4 MIXED RECEPTION

Guests are greeted by a fabulous mix of colour, pattern and design influences in this eclectic hallway (opposite), by Amy Spargo of Maine House Interiors. A deliciously decadent 'Coastal Luxe Palm' chandelier from Lighting Collective is the first of many decorating delights. The gleaming diadem draws the eye up the tall white walls, which feature traditional touches in the wainscoting and detailed cornices. An antique runner (for similar, try 'Antique Caucasian Kuba' kilim from Cadrys) strikes a rustic and playfully patterned chord. With Amy's tight rein on the palette, such a vast range of inspiration works a treat. ***Maine House Interiors, mainehouseinteriors.com.*** >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **TIM SALISBURY** (OPPOSITE) **MARTINA GEMMOLA** STYLING (OPPOSITE) **AMY SPARGO** ARTWORK (OPPOSITE) **FROM THE CLASSIC OUTFITTER, ARTIST'S UNKNOWN**

"WE WANTED TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF DESIGN TO DO SOMETHING THAT HADN'T BEEN SEEN OR DONE BEFORE"

CHARLOTTE COOTE

PHOTOGRAPH: ARMELLE HABIB/STYLING: HEATHER NETTIE KING

5 COFFERED COMFORTS

A modern Aussie take on classic English country style was the brief for this stately 151-year-old homestead in Mount Macedon, Victoria. Charlotte Coote of Coote & Co obliged with this layered, open-plan living room and kitchen. The traditional sofa with a tasselled skirt is in a classic Jasper 'Remy' paisley print and complemented by an Arts and Crafts-style side table from Robert Brown Furniture. The stately glass-fronted joinery was painted in Resene Calm Green to contrast with the marble benchtops. ***Coote & Co, cooteandco.com.au.*** >

"THIS HOME IS ALL ABOUT THE RESORT LIFESTYLE... WE MARRIED AMERICAN PROPORTIONS WITH ENGLISH SENSIBILITIES" **KATE WALKER**

6 SINGING THE BLUES

The lush, flowing lines of The Water Monopoly 'Rockwell' Collection of bathware in peaceful Powder Blue lather up the luxury and serenity in this bathroom (opposite), designed by Tamsin Johnson in a Sydney terrace. The fresh palette is echoed in the special wall finish and the chequerboard tiling. This pattern is cleverly broken up with a ribbon of white tiles to create extra interest and highlight features in the room. As a crisp counterpoint, the shower cubicle and showerhead front up with an industrial edge in crisp steel. The overall verdict? Both tinglingly refreshing and soothing all at once. ***Tamsin Johnson, tamsinjohnson.com.***

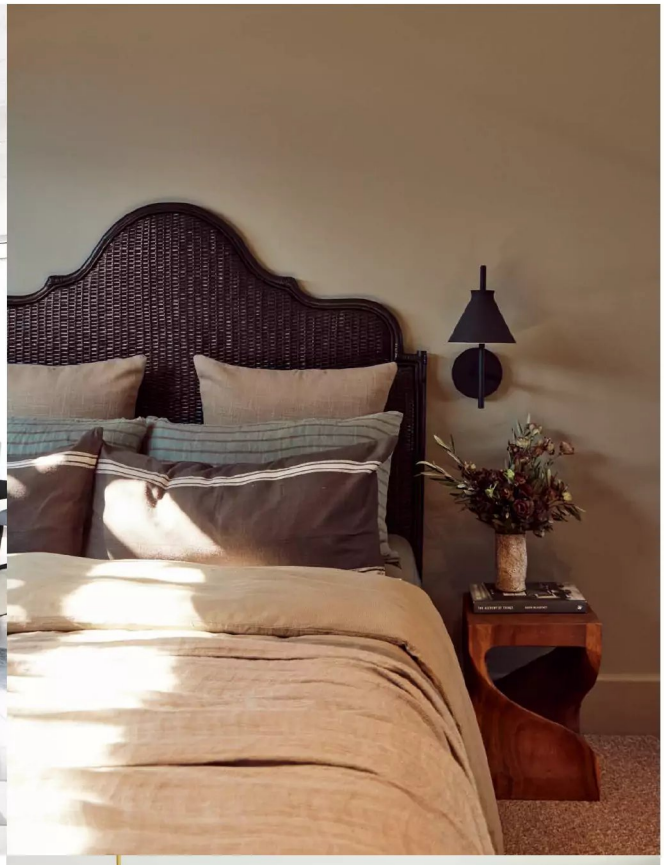
7 AND SO TO BED

Designed by Kate Walker of KWD, this beautiful bedroom (this page) provides a blissful sanctuary for all hours of the day. A parents' retreat in a Mornington Peninsula holiday hideaway, it benefits from tantalising textures, a natural palette and just a sprinkling of pattern. The custom bedhead in Lucy Montgomery fabric stands proud alongside Hale Mercantile Co bedding, topped by custom floral cushions featuring Peter Fasano 'Trotwood' fabric in Beacon Hill. The window seat, 'Carlisle' armchair from Pottery Barn and Cromwell 'Bellingham' bench provide plenty of perches for me-time. A Cromwell bird print is the final feathered flourish. ***KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au.*** >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **TIM O'CONNOR** (OPPOSITE) **ANSON SMART** STYLING (THIS PAGE) **JADE LEE MARTIN**

8 ALL FIRED UP

This pool pavilion makes a splash as part of a renovation to a 1970s home (this page) on the Mornington Peninsula by Kate Walker of KWD. A key part of the brief was for extensive entertaining areas, catering to a steady stream of friends and family seeking time out from the bustle of Melbourne. This covered area is fit for all weathers, thanks to that handsome brick fireplace. With limestone pavers underfoot, it abuts an extensive outdoor dining area and kitchen. The space fulfils the owner's desire for "somewhere for dinners under the stars within a private courtyard". Furniture from Restoration Hardware adds to the laid-back ambience. ***KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au.***



9 GRAND STAND

The Real Housewives of Sydney star, Krissy Marsh, knows how to make an entrance, and the foyer of her grand 1920s home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs (this page, top left) is no exception. Krissy added the Nero Marquina and Carrara marble floor tiles from Teranova. A Lydie du Bray Antiques table completes the scheme. ***Nellie Tilley Interiors, nellietilleyinteriors.com; and The Classic Outfitter, theclassicoutfitter.com.***

10 SPANISH FLAVOUR

Dreamed up by *The Block* alumni, Kyal and Kara Demmrich, this bedroom (this page, top right) on the Central Coast of New South Wales reflects the Spanish theme that flows through the home. Sinuous curved motifs abound, with an 'Amara Scalloped' bedhead by Halvorsen Interiors and the organic McMullin & Co bedsides. ***Kyal and Kara Demmrich, kyalandkara.com.***

11 SHADES OF GREY

Located on Sydney's Lower North Shore, this kitchen (this page, bottom right) sizzles with style thanks to Shaker joinery, a matching splashback and benchtops, and beautiful brass accents. Dark charcoal cabinetry creates depth and contrast against the warm smoked oak flooring. ***Stritt Design & Construction, stritt.com.au.*** >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **KRISTINA ŠOLJO** (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT) **ALANA LANDSBERRY** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **SIMON WHITBREAD** (OPPOSITE) **MARTINA GEMMOLA** STYLING (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **CORINA KOCH** (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT & BOTTOM RIGHT) **LUCY GOUGH** (OPPOSITE) **ANNALESE HAY**

12 ROOM WITH A VIEW

A historic 1930s Melbourne maisonette (this page) received a breezy refresh from interior designer Julie Godfrey of MontClaire Interiors. She lent a deft touch to original features, such as the ornate fireplaces and timber flooring, all beautifully preserved. A stand-out inclusion is the metallic 'Azalea' floor lamp from Florabelle Living, a playful sculpture that combines whimsy and glamour. Deep, immersive blues play against the lush greenery beyond, uniting the palette in elegant harmony.

MontClaire Interiors, montclaire.com.au.

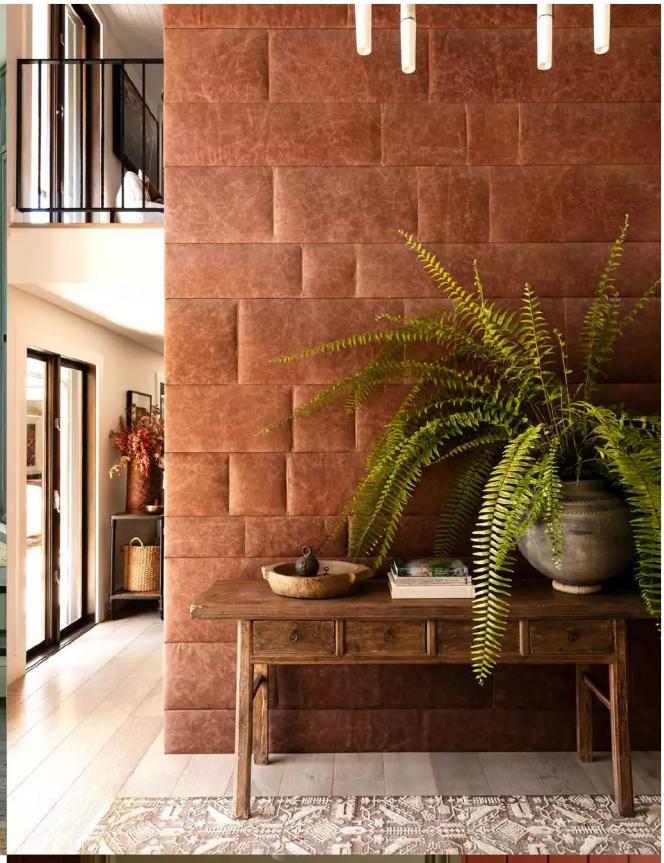
PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) ADRIENNE ELLE (OPPOSITE) KATE ENNO
STYLING (THIS PAGE) LISA BURDEN (OPPOSITE) ANNALESE HAY

13 ON A ROLL

The ensuite in interior designer Melinda Hartwright's home (this page) in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales is a fabulous flight of fancy, largely because she used wallpaper and artworks in a space where others may fear to tread. "I love making bathrooms like any other room," she shares. "It makes the room look softer." Here, she used Kravet 'Latticework' wallpaper in Aqua above the dado. The artworks are by her equally talented parents. ***Melinda Hartwright Interiors, melindahartwright.com.*** >

14 KNOCK ON WOOD

This rustic cottage, designed by Greg Natale, was once a derelict 19th-century sandstone relic tucked away on a property on Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula. Now a one-bedroom guest house, it's layered with intricate prints and chintz, in earthy, heritage hues, as a nod to the charming English country house aesthetic. In the living room (this page), a restored marble hearth exudes luxury, while the exposed timber on the floors and pitched ceiling reference the rugged rural setting. *Greg Natale, gregnatale.com.*



15 SAGE ADVICE

In designer Carlene Duffy's Gold Coast bedroom (this page, top left), Easycraft 'Easy VJ' panelling creates a laid-back ambience, enhanced by walls in soothing sage-toned Resene Mantle and a vibrant artwork, sourced from an op shop. Full of treasures and finds, the family home celebrates her warm personality and bowerbird leanings. ***Carlene Duffy, carleneduffy.com.***

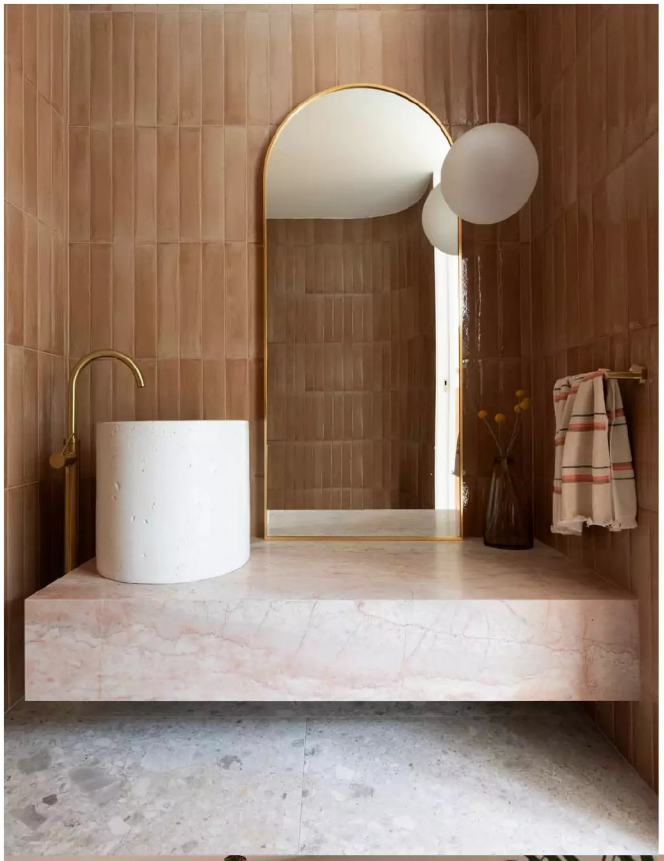
16 LEATHER FORECAST

A leather-clad two-storey fireplace, designed by Kate Walker of KWD, delivers a warm welcome in the entrance of this Mornington Peninsula home (this page, top right). Kate introduced engineered flooring in European oak, a Cadrys rug and a rustic Zuri Home console to provide a soft and tactile landing when the owners arrive home. ***KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au.***

17 IN FOR A PENNY

Penny rounds on the dado and threshold, along with ornate floor tiles from Burleigh Tiles, lend charm to the bathroom (this page, bottom right) in a 100-year-old weatherboard cottage in New South Wales. Carlene Duffy of *The Block* fame gave the home a fresh lease on life, complete with VJ panelling and chequered Roman blinds. ***Carlene Duffy, carleneduffy.com.*** >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **LYNDEN FOSS** (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT) **MARTINA GEMMOLA** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **MINDI COOKE** (OPPOSITE) **ANSON SMART** STYLING (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **CARLENE DUFFY** (THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT) **ANNALESE HAY** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **CARLENE DUFFY ARTWORKS ARTISTS UNKNOWN**



18 ON A PEDESTAL

Designed by Kate Cooper Interiors, this Sunshine Coast powder room (this page, top left) is marvellously memorable. "I knew from the start that I wanted to do a floor-mounted filler and pedestal basin on a stone bench," she says. A concrete basin adorns the low-slung, bespoke Rosa Pink vanity from Arlo Stone + Finishes. ***Kate Cooper Interiors, katecooperinteriors.com.au.***

19 CLUB MED

Italian terracotta tiles create Mediterranean magic in Port Stephens, New South Wales, at this holiday home by Lisa Burdus Design. The alfresco area (this page, bottom left) transports the owners to the Amalfi Coast, with its Yardware furniture and antique lantern. "It's the sort of house where you know you're going to have a good time," they say. ***Lisa Burdus Design, lisaburdus.com.***

20 FLIGHT OF FANCY

Anyone who enters Kate Walker of KWD's playful powder room (this page, bottom right) is in the pink. The designer renovated her home on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula in what she calls 'Caribbean Colonial' style. Cosmopolitan quartzite and Gucci 'Heron' wallpaper are the undeniable heroes. ***KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au.***

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **BROCK BEAZLEY** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) **MAREE HOMER** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **ARMELLE HABIB** (OPPOSITE) **PRUE RUSCOE** STYLING (OPPOSITE) **OLGA LEWIS**

21 HOME & AWAY

For this holiday home in Sydney's Palm Beach, designers Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh (formerly of Hugh-Jones Mackintosh) created a laid-back and whimsical space, as illustrated by this indoor-outdoor entertaining area (this page). The Autoban 'Deco' sofa from Criteria, custom ottoman and Nanimarquina 'Silhouette' rug by Jaime Hayon from Cult invite the homeowners to relax and unwind. ***Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh Design, hughjonesmacintosh.com.*** >

"WE GOT CREATIVE WITH FABRICS, ARTWORK AND COLOUR, AND THE OUTCOME IS SO FUN" **AMY SPARGO**

22 BAY WATCH

Designers Juliette Arent Squadrito and Sarah-Jane Pyke of Arent & Pyke lent their expertise to a Sydney apartment with harbour views, which they referenced in intriguing ways indoors. Calacatta Viola Antica marble stars on the splashback and atop a freeform island in the kitchen (this page). It's a counterpoint to the home's angular lines and echoes the bay inlets just beyond the window, as do the ripples in the island, accented by its indigo stain. Organic qualities abound with the Fredericia 'Spine' timber stools from Cult and 'Sputnik' chandelier. A sculpture by Kat Shapiro on the island joins works by Oleksii Zolota and Anne Zahalka on the shelf. ***Arent & Pyke, arentpyke.com.***

23 RULE BREAKER

'Blue and green should never be seen...' Don't you believe it – they mingle with freshness and flair in this bathroom (opposite). A tired two-storey home on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria received a much-needed makeover from Amy Spargo of Maine House Interiors, whose brief was for a home that celebrates colour and pattern, and gives more than a cheerful nod to English country style. This twin bathroom has all the beauty and charm of an amble in the Cotswolds, with its Svenskt Tenn 'Klöverblad' (Clover Leaf) wallpaper by Josef Frank, Early Settler vanity in Dulux Blue Fin and botanical knobs from Anthropologie. ***Maine House Interiors, mainehouseinteriors.com.*** >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **ANSON SMART** (OPPOSITE) **LISA COHEN**
STYLING (THIS PAGE) **JACK MILENKOVIC** (OPPOSITE) **AMY SPARGO**

24 UNDER THE ARCH

Complete with a richly hued runner and garden views, this laundry (this page) elevates a humdrum chore to a joy. The smart space on the Gold Coast, Queensland, is the creation of designer Carlene Duffy, in the family home she shares with husband, Michael. "The porcelain benchtop from WK Stone takes the overflow of everyone's 'stuff'," she says of the hardworking room. It has the same 'Impressions' joinery, in Green Slate Flint from Freedom Kitchens, as the cooking space, creating a seamless flow between the two. ***Carlene Duffy, carleneduffy.com.***

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) LYNDEN FOSS (OPPOSITE) ANSON SMART; STYLING (THIS PAGE) CARLENE DUFFY (OPPOSITE) CLAIRE DELMAR; ARTWORKS (THIS PAGE, ON LEFT) DYLAN COOPER (THIS PAGE, ON RIGHT) GEORGINA KANE

25 BRIGHT IDEA

"More colour and more interesting" was the brief given to designers Juliette Arent Squadrito and Sarah-Jane Pyke of Arent & Pyke, when asked to transform a humble worker's cottage in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs (this page). The creatives used colour and form to introduce moments of boldness and calm. The living room walls are painted in Dulux White Beach, a contrast to jewel-toned furnishings. A fun Alec Cumming artwork draws the diverse decorating threads together. ***Arent & Pyke, arentpyke.com.*** >

"THE PINK JUST WRAPS AROUND YOU – YOU FEEL GOOD SURROUNDED BY THAT COLOUR" **AMY SPARGO**

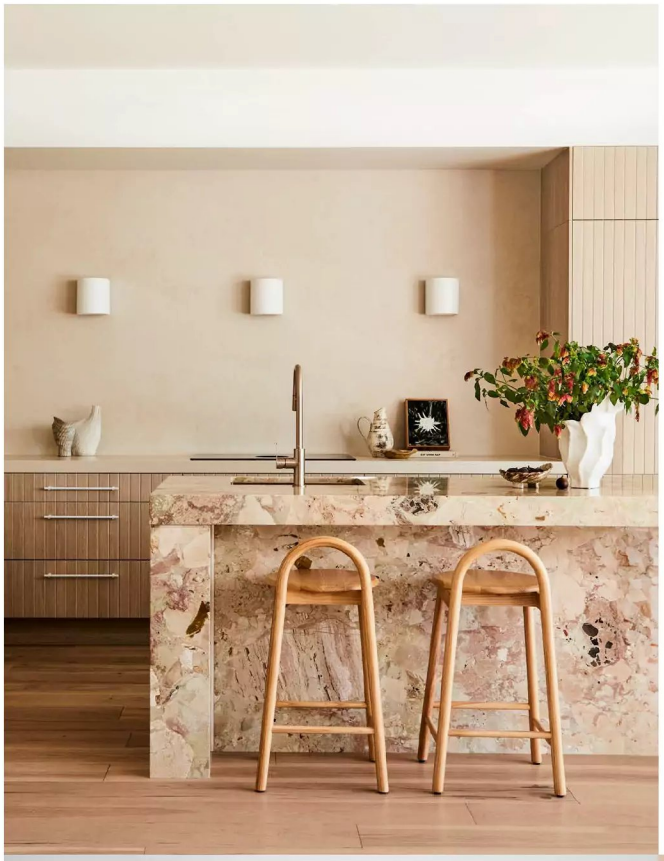
26 FLOWER POWER

In her own wonderfully feminine living room on the Mornington Peninsula, designer Amy Spargo of Maine House Interiors featured Taubmans Tawny Rose on the walls, combined with a romantic floral print or two (this page). One such floral fancy is the Lee Jofa 'Chinese Peony' print on the commodious ottoman, which cleverly doubles as a coffee table and an informal perch. Perhaps most surprising of all, for a designer known for her layered approach, is the lack of window coverings. In this rural retreat, privacy isn't an issue and so the bare windows bring the lush garden into the room. ***Maine House Interiors, mainehouseinteriors.com.***

27 BLURRED LINES

Indoors and out meld into one in this home on Sydney's Lower North Shore (opposite), with architecture by Koichi Takada and interiors by Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh (formerly of Hugh-Jones Mackintosh). To foster the connection with nature, Koichi used aluminium timber-look batten screens and louvres, offering privacy, light control and generous views of the verdant garden by Myles Baldwin Design. The chunky De La Espada 'Twenty-Five' dining table and 'Capo' dining chairs, with large Rose Uniacke 'Cone' pendants from Dunlin, anchor the light and airy space. ***Justine Hugh-Jones and Katrina Mackintosh Design, hughjonesmacintosh.com.*** >

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE) **MARTINA GEMMOLA** (OPPOSITE) **PRUE RUSCOE**
STYLING (THIS PAGE) **AMY SPARGO** (OPPOSITE) **OLGA LEWIS** ARTWORK **ARTISTS UNKNOWN**



28 HEART OF STONE

The Block judge Darren Palmer gets a top score for the kitchen he designed in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs (this page, top left). The textured joinery is Kinsman's 'Avalon' profile in Coastal Oak Woodmatt, while the island features Monreale marble from CDK Stone.

Darren Palmer, darrenpalmer.com.

29 TAKING FLIGHT

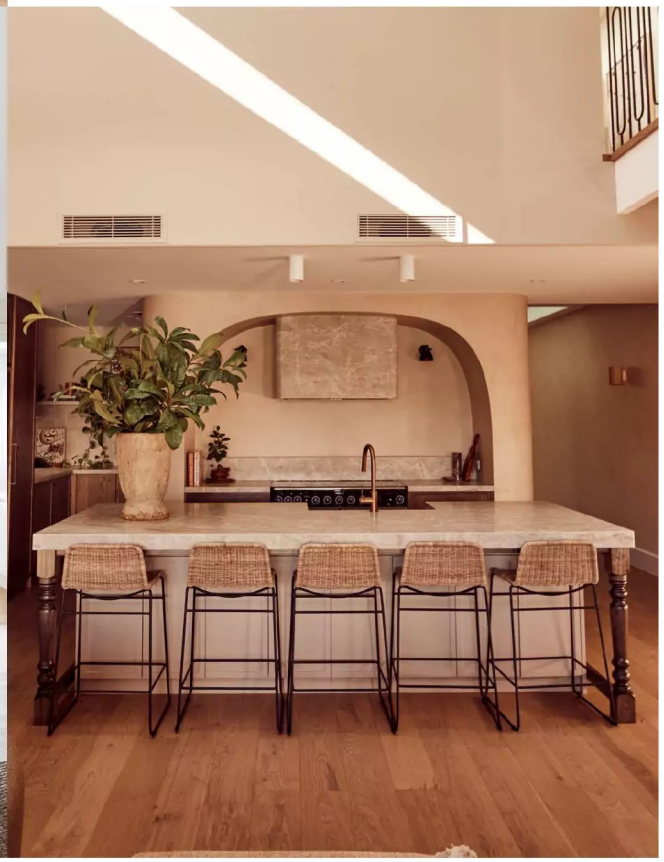
The owners of this home on the Mornington Peninsula specified "welcoming, warm and full of colour" in their brief to designer Amy Spargo of Maine House Interiors. Setting this very tone is the entrance (this page, bottom left), with vintage furniture and art, custom lamps and a romantic, flush-mount Visual Comfort 'Basil' light.

Maine House Interiors, mainehouseinteriors.com.

30 MEDITERRANEAN MOOD

Kyal and Kara Demmrich channeled coastal Spanish resorts when designing this home on the Central Coast of New South Wales – witness the curves, textures and warm, sandy hues in the kitchen (this page, bottom right). Adding to the relaxed coastal charm are Globe West 'Olivia' stools with woven seats. Magnifica!

Kyal and Kara Demmrich, kyalandkara.com.



PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **KRISTINA SOLJO** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) **LISA COHEN** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **ALANA LANDSBERRY** (OPPOSITE) **DONNA DOTAN** STYLING (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **KERRIE-ANN JONES** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) **AMY SPARGO** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **LUCY GOUGH** (OPPOSITE) **MIEKE TEN HAVE** ARTWORK (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **PHOEBE STONE** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) HOMEOWNER'S ARTWORK **ON GALLERY WALL** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **WHITNEY SPICER** (ALL OTHER ARTWORKS) **ARTISTS UNKNOWN**

31 DRAPED TO PERFECTION

When American interior designer Ariel Okin and her family moved to a new home in upstate New York, she essentially had a blank slate to work with. The home office (this page) needed to function as a study, guest room and fabric library, organised and cosy at the same time. Casa Branca 'Papavero' textured grasscloth wallpaper, in sandy-hued Madagascar, makes the space feel instantly inviting, as do the floor-to-ceiling drapes that add intimacy to the multipurpose space. ***Ariel Okin, orielokin.com.*** >

32 INTO THE WOODS

When designers Jacinta Woods and Sonia Warner of Woods & Warner were asked to refresh a California bungalow on Sydney's Lower North Shore, they turned to the colours of the Australian landscape (this page). "Our use of colour in warm neutrals, eucalypt greens, ocean blues and terracotta reds celebrates a confidence in the interior," they say. The Laal 'Mega Arch Cone' light makes a sculptural statement atop 'Diiva' stools by Grazia & Co. *Woods & Warner, woodsandwarner.com.au.*

33 AWASH WITH IDEAS

This laundry in a family home on Sydney's outskirts (this page, top left) is as crisp as a freshly pressed shirt. By Cadence & Co, it features an antique display table doing service as a work space, with Carrara marble benchtops from WK Stone and a wide Shaws fireclay sink from Reece. ***Cadence & Co, cadenceandco.com.au.***

34 SURF & TURF

Designer Amy Spargo's laundry in her Mornington Peninsula home (this page, bottom left) showcases 'Primrose Garden' wallpaper by Maine House Interiors, teamed with Porter's Paints Jodhpur Blue on the trims and joinery. Even the door handle, a collation of sea life by artist Suzie Stanford, is magical. ***Maine House Interiors, mainehouseinteriors.com.***

35 NEW HORIZONS

Lofty style migrates to the powder room (this page, bottom right), with Mulberry Home 'Flying Ducks' wallpaper from Elliott Clarke Textiles making a design statement in this space by Kate Walker of KWD. It's beautifully joined by white wainscoting and a sculptural freestanding basin. ***KWD, katewalkerdesign.com.au.*** HB

PHOTOGRAPHY (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **MAREE HOMER** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT) **MARTINA GEMMOLA** (THIS PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT) **ARMELLE HABIB** (OPPOSITE) **SIMON WHITBREAD** STYLING (THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT) **KATE NIXON** ARTWORKS **ARTISTS UNKNOWN**

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BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

IDEAS AND INSPIRATION FOR STYLISH OUTDOOR LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHY ROBYN LEA SCULPTURE DAVID BROMLEY

MY FAIR LADY
PAGE 136

Time jump *This Paul Bangay-designed garden walks a delicate line between heritage formality and looser contemporary styling, which is exactly what homeowners Steve and Sandra (the latter pictured here with corgis Molly and Barty) wanted. The facade of this late-19th century Melbourne home is wrapped by a ribbon of Endicott Filetti stone pavers from Eco Outdoor. Buxus balls sit beside Dichondra repens, which creeps over the verandah steps. In the courtyard, a bronze sculpture (previous page) by David Bromley, bought at auction, reminds the owners of their children. The playful pose contrasts with the traditional medium.* >

My fair LADY

A heritage home has gained an elegant garden to match, with Paul Bangay designing this floriferous semi-formal eden

STORY SHELLEY TUSTIN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBYN LEA

"YOU THINK A WINTER GARDEN WILL BE PRETTY DRAB, BUT WHEN YOU SEE THE SILHOUETTE OF THE BRANCHES IN THE LIGHT, IT'S PRETTY SPECIAL"

SANDRA, HOMEOWNER

Street appeal *A grand home deserves an impressive entrance (this page), so Sandra and Steve invested in new fencing, a stone-and-iron columned gate, and paved the driveway in bluestone. A towering palm was one of the few existing trees on the property.* ***Silver linings*** *Pops of silvery grey appear luminous, with white crepe myrtles rising out of thickets of rosemary and Artemisia 'Powis Castle' (opposite).*

Outstanding architecture is often the hero of a heritage property, but a sympathetically designed garden can steal the stage, especially when it enhances the historic charm with a rosy spotlight. Such is the case of this home and surrounding gardens in a bayside suburb of Melbourne.

Built in 1892 to a design by architect George Jobbins, Fairfield Hall is exactly the sort of significant heritage building admired by homeowners Sandra (who is heavily involved in the National Trust of Victoria) and her husband Steve. True to type, Sandra jumped at the chance to explore this Italianate edifice when it came on the market in 2020. She was especially excited to get a closer look at its stately brick form, cast-iron lacework and romantic turrets. These features piqued her interest, yet she didn't expect to completely fall in love. Recalls Sandra, "It's so original and well built – and it was just too special to let go."

While the building had been well preserved inside, the garden hadn't enjoyed the same tender care. Though its size had been largely retained, with a proportionate scale to suit the grand old building, it was really an oversized bed of weeds. "The garden needed a total overhaul," says Sandra. "There were tree roots growing through everything – the front verandahs even had tree roots growing through them – but there was just so much potential." And that was too tantalising to resist.

The grand old home deserved a magnificent garden to suit, but Sandra says, "We didn't want a super-formal garden. We wanted a garden that would change with the seasons, and that would still have structure and flow." To deliver this, they called on landscape maestro Paul Bangay, whose oeuvre captures exactly the tone of softened formality they wanted. "We've come from a place that was extremely formal and predominantly classic in the '80s, to a more casual, relaxed place, that's a bit wilder and more in keeping with the way people live now," Paul muses. It was a transformation that traversed the decades. >

Grand dame *The entrance (top left) features a new gate and front fence custom-made by Alpha Wrought Iron and Victorian Stonemasons.* ***Clouds of green*** *The expansive front lawn is surrounded by beds of mass-planted perennials. "The planting is soft, informal, like one big wraparound herbaceous border," says Paul. Clipped Buxus balls sit alongside oak-leaf hydrangeas and Artemisia (top right), while robust Salvia 'Waverly' (bottom left) provides delicate seasonal colour.* ***Step in time*** *Steps link the driveway to the side path, framed by garden beds (bottom right). Centred on a white camellia, these beds feature star jasmine, Gardenia 'Florida', orange jessamine and oak-leaf hydrangeas.* ***In full bloom*** *Sandra wanted a cutting garden, so beds are filled with flowers and foliage. This corner (opposite) features a pink 'Mutabilis' rose, white Indian hawthorn, rosemary, English lavender and velvety lamb's ears.* ›

"IT'S NOT A TYPICAL VICTORIAN GARDEN, WHICH WOULD TRADITIONALLY BE A LOT MORE DECORATIVE, BUT IT'S STILL A LOVELY, CLASSIC GARDEN"

PAUL BANGAY

SOURCE BOOK

Landscape design *Paul Bangay Garden Design, (03) 9070 6050, paulbangay.com.* ***Landscape construction*** *Julian McCarthy Landscapes, 0417 310 083, julianmccarthylandscapes.com.au*

Timeless design, that would ensure the heritage and layout of the property were treated sympathetically, was key. "But the way to make it more contemporary is through the use of materials," Paul says. "For example, one of the pathways takes you on a lovely journey past the front of the house and then down the east side. In designing that walkway, we maintained the traditional layout, type of stone and colour, but used a contemporary filetti paving." Similarly, instead of decorative stone edging, as would have been used in an original garden of the home's era, Paul specified slender steel edging, over which flowers and foliage spill from the laden beds.

To soften the formality, and to ensure an ever-changing canvas of colour, Sandra wanted a plant palette loaded with flowers. This was a brief Paul fulfilled with a plan including astors, two types of lavender, catmint, ajuga, jasmine, salvias and agastaches. Despite requesting a floriferous garden, Sandra asked to limit the number of roses. "Because you do have a bare garden in winter if you have tonnes of roses," she explains. The roses that did make the cut are carefully chosen to provide bang for buck, including vigorous Pierre de Ronsard climbers over the arbour and clumps of bushy Mutabilis, which is covered in butterfly-type blooms for most of the year.

Paul's plans were swiftly executed by Julian McCarthy Landscapes. "And our gardener, Deb Richardson, maintains it every week – she's wonderful, she's done our garden for 30 years," says Sandra. Though only completed less than three years ago, the garden already feels thoroughly well established. Evergreens, from verdant Buxus to blue-toned juniper, form a base palette against which is set a kaleidoscope of flowers and deciduous trees. These shift in and out of focus as the seasons change, creating movement and an unfolding, evolving beauty.

"What I find amazing is we don't have bare dirt anywhere – everything has grown and filled out so quickly," says Sandra. "And as the trees grow, it will become more and more beautiful."

Fairfield Hall opens as part of the NGVWA Garden Day on Thursday October 23, 2025. Book tickets at ngv.Melbourne/NGVWA. HB

Lawn games *Most of the garden is in the front, where the old tennis court has been replaced by lawn, framed by deep beds (this page). A gazebo was restored from ruins. "It was pretty much falling apart. We had it moved across to where it is now and a chippie rebuilt it," says Sandra. "It gives you a beautiful view back towards the house." In the surrounding garden bed, topiary Buxus balls rise out of a carpet of blue juniper, like islands in a calm blue sea.* ***Quick step*** *The stone path segues onto slabs of Endicott stone from Eco Outdoor, used in random lengths and set into the lawn next to the path (opposite); as illustrated by Sandra and corgis Molly and Barty.*

THE *gardener's* LOG

Ashley is having a pinch-me moment, following in the footsteps of Edna Walling

WORDS ASHLEY JAMES | PHOTOGRAPHY ALLIE ASZODI

As *Home Beautiful*'s 100th birthday celebrations come to an end this issue, it's high time I pay homage to a remarkable woman who has shaped my gardening journey in countless ways – the one and only Edna Walling. Hailing from the picturesque county of Devon in the UK, Edna didn't just dip her toes in horticulture; she dove in headfirst after studying at Burnley Horticultural College and emerged as one of Australia's most formidable landscape designers. Even 52 years after she left us, Edna is still treated like royalty in the gardening realm, and rightly so.

Picture this: Edna, decked out in jodhpurs, a sturdy shirt, and a cosy jumper, paired with thick socks and men's shoes – because, let's be honest, women's footwear back then was about as useful as a chocolate teapot. She set about transforming the Australian landscape, crafting gardens far and wide, and is the mastermind behind the style we now revere as the Australian Cottage Garden.

As I sit here typing in my own well-loved woollen jumper and delightfully chunky socks, I can't help but wonder if Edna's influence stretches beyond my gardening habits.

Edna's mission was clear from the start: to create a harmonious bond between house and garden, crafting spaces that were meant to be enjoyed rather than just admired. Over her illustrious career, she designed more than 300 gardens for an impressive roster of clients, including the likes of Dame Nellie Melba, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, and Sir Frank Packer.

But Edna wasn't just the go-to gal for garden design; she was also an accomplished author and garden writer, penning articles for *Home Beautiful* from the 1920s to the 1940s. Her columns often kicked off with "Dear Gardeners" and wrapped up with her delightful sign-off, "Yours Deciduously, Edna Walling." Although I never had the chance to meet this extraordinary woman, her design philosophy still impacts every garden I create. The emphasis on natural materials, lush greenery, and the seamless connection between home and garden have become hallmarks of my work. So, when the lovely folks at *Home Beautiful* approached me to write a monthly gardening column, I was genuinely thrilled to follow in the footsteps of a true icon. In fact, I named my column The Gardener's Log, inspired by one of Edna's own books.

While the world has changed dramatically over the past century, Edna Walling, like *Home Beautiful*, continues to inspire gardeners everywhere. I'm incredibly grateful and honoured to play even a tiny role in this legacy.

So, dear gardeners, the next time you find yourself wandering through a garden, strolling alongside a quaint stone wall beneath the grand canopy of leafy trees, take a moment to ponder: "Did Edna inspire this garden?" Until next time, happy gardening!

Yours deciduously,
Ashley James

Ashley James (pictured) is a horticulturist and garden designer based in Victoria, who has gained a reputation for creating gardens in a vast range of styles, from romantic plots to bold urban spaces. He has appeared on a number of TV shows and his own garden, named The Potager Garden, has drawn attention worldwide. HB

Clockwise from top left *'The Vision of Edna Walling' by Trisha Dixon and Jennie Churchill is one of Ashley's favourite books. "There's a lovely section about her time with 'Home Beautiful'," he says. 'The Unusual Life of Edna Walling' by Sara Hardy is another cherished book. Ashley's daughters, Elsie (left) and Charley, enjoy a free ride – "they're forever out there with me," he says.*

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BEAUTIFUL FOOD

EASY AND DELICIOUS FOOD TO SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

MILK & HONEY MASCARPONE LOAF
See page 155

PHOTOGRAPHY CON POULOS

SWEET SURRENDER
PAGE 148

SWEET SURRENDER

From hive to home, treat yourself to nature's bounty of liquid gold with these delectable, honey-infused recipes for easy entertaining

RECIPES JESSICA BROOK | STYLING STEVE PEARCE | PHOTOGRAPHY CON POULOS

Oat & honeycomb cookie bars

MAKES 12

***Prep** 15 minutes **Cooking** 1 hour*

½ cup (125ml) vegetable oil
1 egg
½ cup (110g) brown sugar
¼ cup (55g) caster sugar
1½ cups (125g) rolled oats
¾ cup (100g) golden raisins
1 cup (150g) plain flour
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

Honeycomb

1 cup (220g) caster sugar
½ cup (180g) honey
¼ cup (60ml) water
1½ tsp bicarbonate of soda, sifted

1 Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Line a lightly greased 20cm x 30cm slice tin with baking paper, allowing a 3cm overhang. Set aside.
2 Whisk oil, egg and combined sugars in a large bowl. Add the oats, raisins, flour, vanilla and bicarbonate of soda and stir to combine. Spoon into prepared tin and press with the back of a spoon to form an even layer.
3 Bake for 30–40 minutes, or until golden and firm to the touch. Set aside in tin to cool.
4 To make the honeycomb, place the sugar, honey and water in a large, deep saucepan over medium-low heat and stir to dissolve sugar. Increase heat to high and bring to the boil.
5 Cook, without stirring, for 5 minutes or until mixture is a deep golden colour and reaches 154°C on a sugar thermometer. Remove from heat and allow bubbles to subside slightly. Working quickly, add bicarbonate of soda, stirring with a wooden spoon until just incorporated and the mixture starts to foam.
6 Pour quickly over the cookie bar base and set aside to cool completely.
7 Using a serrated knife, cut into bars to serve. Store cookie bars in an airtight container in the fridge. Bring to room temperature to eat.
TIP Work fast with your honeycomb to make sure you have an airy honeycomb texture (honeycomb will foam). >

OAT & HONEYCOMB
COOKIE BARS
See opposite

Honey & almond mousse

SERVES 4–6

***Prep** 20 minutes, plus refrigeration overnight **Cooking** 10 minutes*

1 tbsp warm water
1 tsp powdered gelatine
1 cup (250ml) almond milk
½ cup (90g) creamed honey
3 tbsp cornflour
4 eggs
¼ cup (60ml) amaretto liqueur
1 cup (250ml) thickened cream
½ cup (180g) runny honey
1 tbsp bee pollen, to serve (optional)

1 Pour water into a saucepan. Sprinkle over the gelatine and set aside to hydrate for 5 minutes.
2 Pour almond milk into a medium saucepan over medium heat and bring just to a simmer.
3 Meanwhile, combine half the honey with the cornflour in a mixing bowl and whisk to combine. Add 2 whole eggs and 2 egg yolks (reserving egg whites) and whisk to combine. Pour warm almond milk over the egg mixture and whisk to combine. Return to medium saucepan over low heat.
4 Add amaretto, stirring continuously for 6–8 minutes or until thick and just starting to bubble. Remove from heat.
5 Place gelatine mixture over low heat and stir to soften. Add the gelatine to the egg mixture and stir until smooth and combined.
6 Transfer to a bowl, cover and refrigerate for 1 hour, or until cooled but not completely set.
7 In a clean bowl, whisk the remaining 2 egg whites to soft peaks. Gradually add the remaining honey and whisk until stiff peaks form. Set aside.
8 In a separate bowl, whisk the cream to soft peaks.
9 With a spatula, gently fold the whipped cream and whipped egg whites into the almond milk custard. Spoon into a large 1.8-litre bowl. Refrigerate overnight.
10 Place honey in a medium saucepan over high heat and bring to the boil. Cook for 4 minutes or until colour darkens. Set aside to cool.
11 Serve mousse drizzled with burnt honey and sprinkle with bee pollen. Serve immediately.
TIP Bee pollen is available from health food stores and selected fruit shops and delis.

Spiced honey cakes

MAKES 12

***Prep** 20 minutes **Cooking** 1 hour*

1 cup (250ml) milk
200g unsalted butter
100g light muscovado sugar
100g golden caster sugar
¾ cup (270g) honey
2 eggs, lightly beaten
325g plain flour
½ tsp salt
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp ground ginger
½ tsp ground cinnamon
250g fresh honeycomb, to serve

1 Preheat oven to 150°C (130°C fan-forced). Lightly grease and line a 12-hole, ¾ cup capacity (180ml) mini loaf pan with baking paper, allowing a 2cm overhang.
2 Combine milk, butter, combined sugars and honey in a medium saucepan over low heat and stir until butter and sugar have melted.
3 Pour into a large bowl. Set aside to cool slightly. Add eggs and whisk to combine.
4 Combine flour, salt, bicarbonate of soda, baking powder, ginger and cinnamon in a second mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre. Add the butter mixture and mix to combine.
5 Divide batter into the tin, then bake for 40–50 minutes, or until firm to the touch and a skewer pushed into the centre comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then turn out and cool on a wire rack.
6 Serve with fresh honeycomb.
TIP You can also make this in a single loaf tin. Use a 25cm x 10cm loaf tin. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Croissant honey vanilla crisps

MAKES 4

***Prep** 15 minutes **Cooking** 45 minutes*

2 butter croissants, halved horizontally
25g unsalted butter, chopped
¾ cup (270g) honey
1 tsp vanilla extract
Smooth ricotta, to serve (optional)
Honey, to serve (optional)

1 Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Use a rolling pin to flatten each croissant.
2 Place a large frying pan over medium-low heat. Add butter, honey and vanilla and cook, until butter has melted. Add croissants and cook for 1 minute on each side.
3 Place croissants on a large baking tray lined with non-stick baking paper. Drizzle over the honey syrup. Cover with a second sheet of non-stick baking paper. Place a heavy saucepan on top and bake in oven for 30 minutes, or until golden and crisp.
4 Remove baking paper. Set aside to cool and become crisp.
5 Serve as is, or with ricotta drizzled with extra honey. >

CROISSANT HONEY
VANILLA CRISPS
See opposite

SPICED HONEY CAKES
See page 150

HONEY & ALMOND MOUSSE
See page 150

FLOURLESS HONEY
& APPLE CAKE
See opposite

Flourless honey & apple cake

SERVES 6

***Prep** 30 minutes **Cooking** 2 hours*

100ml light flavoured olive oil
¾ cup (270g) honey
1 tsp finely grated lemon rind
¼ cup (60ml) lemon juice
4 eggs, separated
2 cups (220g) almond flour
¼ cup (30g) tapioca flour
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp table salt
½ cup (150g) honey extra, plus extra for drizzling, to serve
½ tsp cream of tartar
2 small red apples

1 Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Line a lightly greased 22cm round cake tin with baking paper. Set aside.
2 Combine oil, honey, lemon zest and juice, and egg yolks in a large bowl and whisk to combine.
3 Sift the almond flour, tapioca flour, baking powder and salt into the egg yolk mixture and mix to combine.
4 Place egg whites in the clean bowl of an electric stand mixer. Add honey, cream of tartar and whisk to stiff peaks.
5 In three batches, fold the egg white mixture into the egg yolk batter. Spoon into the tin and smooth the top. Bake for 40–45 minutes or until a skewer inserted comes out clean.
6 Set aside to cool for 10 minutes, before transferring to a tray to cool completely.
7 Reduce oven to 140°C (120°C fan-forced). Thinly slice the apples using a mandolin. Arrange in a single layer on a tray lined with baking paper. Brush each side with honey, then drizzle with remaining honey.
8 Bake for 1 hour 30 minutes–2 hours, or until apples are caramelised and sticky. While warm, transfer to a sheet of baking paper to firm and cool.
9 Decorate cake with apples. Drizzle with honey to serve.

Milk & honey mascarpone loaf

SERVES 10

***Prep** 20 minutes **Cooking** 1 hour*

½ cup (125ml) milk
2 tbsp water
1 English breakfast tea bag
150g unsalted butter, chopped and softened
1½ tbsp (30ml) vegetable oil
⅓ cup (75g) caster sugar
3 eggs, at room temperature
1½ cups (540g) honey
1 tsp table salt
1½ tsp baking powder
2 cups (300g) plain flour
500g mascarpone
1 cup (250ml) thickened cream
½ cup (90g) creamed honey

1 Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Line a lightly greased 8cm x 22cm (base measurement) loaf tin with baking paper, allowing a 2cm overhang. Set aside.
2 Place milk, water and tea bag in a small saucepan over medium heat. Bring just to a simmer. Remove from heat and set aside to infuse and cool to room temperature.
3 Place butter, oil and sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer and beat for 8 minutes, or until light and creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add honey and beat to combine.
4 Remove tea bags from milk and discard.
5 In a bowl, mix salt, baking powder and flour to combine.
6 Alternating between the flour and milk mixtures, add to the eggs, folding to just combine. Spoon into tin and bake for 45–50 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Set aside in the tin for 10 minutes to cool, before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
7 Whisk mascarpone and cream together until mixture has thickened. Spoon onto loaf. Drizzle with creamed honey and serve immediately. HB

Featuring Atelis Concrete Basin in Matte White
and Milani Swivel Hob Mixer Set in Brushed Gunmetal

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It's no exaggeration to say that kitchens, bathrooms and laundries are some of the most important rooms in modern interiors. Their design, material palette and style can leave your home feeling like a daily delight or constant chaos. Thankfully, we've got the expert advice to help you make these rooms functional yet fabulous, with 12 stunning examples from some of our favourite Australian designers.

EDITED BY BRITTANY SMITH

PHOTOGRAPHY PRUE RUSCOE

A CUT ABOVE

This Tamworth kitchen elevates the rhythms of family life thanks to smart storage and timeless details that wow

WORDS LISA EASEY | PHOTOGRAPHY PRUE RUSCOE

STYLE NOTES

A palette of warm *whites bathes this space in softness and light, creating a gentle, timeless appeal often found in Lucinda Kimpton of Kimpton Interiors' work. In the kitchen and butler's pantry, cabinetry in Dulux Ecru Quarter is set against walls in Dulux Natural White for a subtle contrast. The restrained palette allows finer details to shine, from the 'Cotswold' cup pulls by Armac Martin to the island joinery, crafted from solid timber in a Dark Walnut stain.* >

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Kimpton Interiors, kimptoninteriors.com.au.* ***Builder*** *Larry Marker Constructions, (02) 6762 4422.* ***Joinery*** *Nu Space Joinery, nu-space.com.au.*

The hustle and bustle of everyday life can make it tempting to favour function over style in kitchen design. In this Tamworth home, interior designer Lucinda Kimpton opted for a balanced approach, one that embraced modern convenience alongside classic, luxury detailing. It was exactly what the clients, a busy family of seven, needed. "They envisioned a kitchen that was highly functional, sophisticated and welcoming – a space that could comfortably support the demands of family life while feeling refined and enduring," shares Lucinda.

Instead of structural changes, the existing kitchen and butler's pantry were refreshed. This included timeless Shaker-style cabinetry, alongside Calacatta Crema marble from Lamistone. This is carried across the benchtops and splashback, as well as the marble-topped island, which is practical enough for meal prep and luxurious enough for family gathering.

Hardworking appliances make cooking a breeze. "From the very start, the client and I were excited about incorporating a Lacanche oven – a stunning feature that adds character and professional-grade performance to the kitchen," says Lucinda.

Tucked behind the cooking area, the butler's pantry offers additional storage. Yet for the family, it's all about those special moments. "The kitchen effortlessly supports shared meals, conversation and connection," says Lucinda.

IN THE DETAILS

Integrated appliances maintain *a clean, cohesive look while maximising space. A Fisher & Paykel integrated French door fridge and a Miele fully integrated XXL dishwasher are discreetly hidden within the cabinetry. Strategic placement near storage further enhances the flow of daily routines. "The island drawers house everyday crockery and glassware, making for an effortless transition from dishwasher to storage," Lucinda explains.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *Porcelain 'Chain'* ***bowl*** *in Blue and White, $465, Highgate House. 'Nouvelle'* ***dining table****, $1399/240cm, Harvey Norman. Kaboodle Kitchen 'Salento'* ***handle*** *in Worn Gold, $11.91/160mm, Bunnings. Calacatta Statuario Extra* ***marble****, $1950/sqm, Marable. Plantino Engineered Oak 'Wynmark'* ***flooring*** *in Praline Oak, from $83.27/sqm (product only), Choices Flooring. Thomas O'Brien 'Goodman'* ***pendant*** *in Antique Brass with Antique White Shade, $1640/small, The Montauk Lighting Co.* HB

ARTWORK 'BULLER BOUND' BY DEBBIE MACKENZIE

POWER OF THREE

A third (and final) kitchen renovation has given this busy family of five the stylish and clever space of their dreams

WORDS BRITTANY SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY MARTINA GEMMOLA

STYLE NOTES

"Minimalism was never going to work for us," *says interior designer and founder of Moss Interiors, Jacquie Pask, who lives in this home with her family of five, plus three pets. The island, a repurposed railway sleeper, was the starting point. "The worn-in character of the island set the tone for the space. We needed to ensure we maintained a balance... and did so with handmade splashback tiles, natural stone and curated clutter," she says.* >

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

In the 10 years that Jacquie Pask has lived in this home, situated in a Bayside Melbourne suburb, she has renovated the kitchen three times. This might seem excessive to some, but as the founder of Moss Interiors, the constant evolutions feel inevitable for Jacquie. Still, she is adamant that this latest iteration is the one that has achieved perfection.

"It's a hectic household," admits Jacquie, who shares the home with her husband, their three children, two dogs and a cat. "It's a hardwearing space and can handle the hustle."

Built in 1870, the abode had a past life as a two-storey shop before it was converted into a four-bedroom home. "We wanted to work within the existing structure," shares the interior designer, "so we needed to be clever with the layout to make it feel as spacious as possible, while maximising storage."

As with many heritage homes, the kitchen benefits from high ceilings, which Jacquie optimised with joinery that stretches up to two metres in height. This matte Polytec cabinetry in White Cotton is unobtrusive, blending in with a splashback made from clearance stock at National Tiles (for similar, try 'Multiforme Talco' subway tiles from Tiento). An Elba marble benchtop from Peraway Marble graces the wall, stretching from one end of the kitchen into the adjoining dining area. A large artwork by Bridget Meldrum and a painting by Jacquie's grandmother in-law tie it all together with charm and cheer.

IN THE DETAILS

The white joinery, tiles and marble *create subdued style, which allows lashings of vibrant green to shine. Haymes Poplar Grove was the hue of choice for the under-bench joinery, complementing the dramatic veining in the Verde Alpi marble benchtops and splashback from Gladstones Granite & Marble. The latter stars on the wall opposite the white tiled splashback and benchtop, adding an air of eclecticism befitting the creative family.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *Ascaso 'Steel Uno PID'* ***coffee machine*** *in Stainless Steel, $2399, Jetblack Espresso Machines. 'Vienna' extension* ***dining table****, $2199, Domayne. 'Electric Lemon'* ***painting*** *by Brandi Hughes, $1450/30cm x 30cm (framed), Sibu Gallery. Verde Green* ***marble****, from $423.50/sqm, Sydney Tile Gallery. 'Eden Square' kitchen* ***mixer*** *in Brushed Nickel, $254.90, ABI Interiors. 'Plissé'* ***kettle****, $250, Alessi.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

While Jacquie loves the character *that the timber island brings, it needed more functionality. Concerned about bacteria, she replaced the old timber top with Verde Alpi marble. "One of the features is the flush-mount sink, where the edge of the sink aligns with the stone," she says. By avoiding an overhang (and potential chips to the stone), the junction is now easier to clean.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Moss Interiors, mossinteriors.au.*
Joinery *CabinetSmith, cabinetsmith.com.au.*
Stonemason *Hendersons Marble & Granite, (03) 9314 0422.* HB

DESERT DREAMS

This kitchen, complete with a cosy dining nook, is a study in restraint, letting a honey-hued stone take the spotlight

WORDS KATE BARBER | PHOTOGRAPHY JACQUI TURK

ARTWORKS (LEFT) KAREN G (RIGHT) POPPIE PECK

STYLE NOTES

Honeyed timber tones are *championed in this kitchen, where bench stools from MCM House mingle with Quaresto honed marble from Artedomus and existing limewashed pine flooring. The theme carries into the adjoining dining nook, with a 'Luxa' table from Totem Road and MCM House 'Bellino' chairs. "It is an uncontrived space that feels beachy and relaxed without being too coastal," says interior designer Kristy McGregor.* >

It's hard to imagine that this space could ever have been described as cold, but the original kitchen in this Federation semi-detached home in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs certainly evoked a chill. "The existing kitchen was all white and very minimal, with stainless steel fittings and fixtures, and a pale blue glass splashback," says interior designer Kristy McGregor. "No design element related to the character and charm of the existing heritage details."

The homeowner Monique, who lives here with her children Louis, 14, and Harper, 12, tasked Kristy with creating a "beautiful, inviting space" with additional storage. Her must-haves included integrated appliances, plus space for a pantry and small desk, which are now in the original sunroom.

The Quaresto honed marble from Artedomus on the waterfall bench and splashback is the hero material. "It had beautiful warm tones, which I knew Monique would love, and it really provided the inspiration and tone for the kitchen," says Kristy. This pairs well tonally with the two-pack cabinet fronts in a custom colour and walls painted in Dulux Stowe White.

Now, the functional space feels swaddled in style and warmth. "They love it," says Kristy. "The refurbishment is beautiful but most importantly, it has really made the house feel like a cosy, inviting home for Monique and her kids. It has a lovely, warm feel as soon as you enter the front door."

DESIGNER'S TIP

Kristy says it's important to *keep a scheme pared back if you're working with bold materials, such as this Quaresto marble. "The stone almost looks like desert sand blowing in the wind. Because it makes such a strong statement, we really didn't want to bring another material into the palette," she says. "It would have diluted the strength of the overall scheme." Instead, the marble accents the splashbacks and benchtops, flowing down into a waterfall edge.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *'Brera' 600mm* ***handle*** *in Brass, $179, Lo & Co. Smeg 600mm 'Classic' pyrolytic* ***oven*** *in Matte Black, $1899, Harvey Norman. Quaresto* ***marble****, from $682/sqm, Artedomus. Zip 'HydroTap G5 Celsius Plus All-in-One'* ***tap*** *in Brushed Gold, $8395, Winnings. 'Jasper' round* ***dining table*** *with lazy Suzan, Harvey Norman. 'Carly'* ***bar stool*** *in Walnut/Beige Fabric, $599, Domayne.*

IN THE DETAILS

With a focus on materials *blending together harmoniously, hardware was used to accent the space. In such a warm scheme, brass was naturally the finish of choice. 'Outline C' knobs by Claire Delmar x Lo & Co and a 'Scala' mixer tap from Sussex are joined by 'Brera' large handles, also from Lo & Co, all with a tactile, Tumbled Brass finish.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Kristy McGregor, kristymcgregor.com.au.*
Builder *Ecobuild Construction, ecobuildconstruction.com.au.*
Joinery *Vicello Kitchens, vicello.com.au.* HB

COASTAL CLASSIC

A Hamptons-inspired makeover feels perfectly at home against this kitchen's idyllic waterfront setting

WORDS TENEAL ZUVELA | STYLING OLGA LEWIS | PHOTOGRAPHY TOM FERGUSON

STYLE NOTES

The finer details in this kitchen*, such as the hand-painted finish on the joinery, elevate the scheme to perfection. "We wanted the brush strokes to be visible while enhancing the subtle variations," says Alexandra Mason, director and lead designer of Studio Aem. Striking silhouettes feature, particularly in the splashback, comprised of carrara marble 'Arabesque' lantern-shaped tiles from Di Lorenzo. The light hue of the AC Stone porcelain benchtops in Rain is a timeless Hamptons touch.* >

DESIGNER'S TIP

"Never overlook lighting," *Alexandra advises. "Task lighting is essential for practicality, but mood lighting will transform the kitchen into a warm, welcoming space when it's not in active use." Here, three Chapman & Myers small 'Darlana' lanterns in Gilded Iron illuminate in the most beautiful way, while charming Coco Republic 'Albin' wall sconces complete the palette.*

SOURCE BOOK

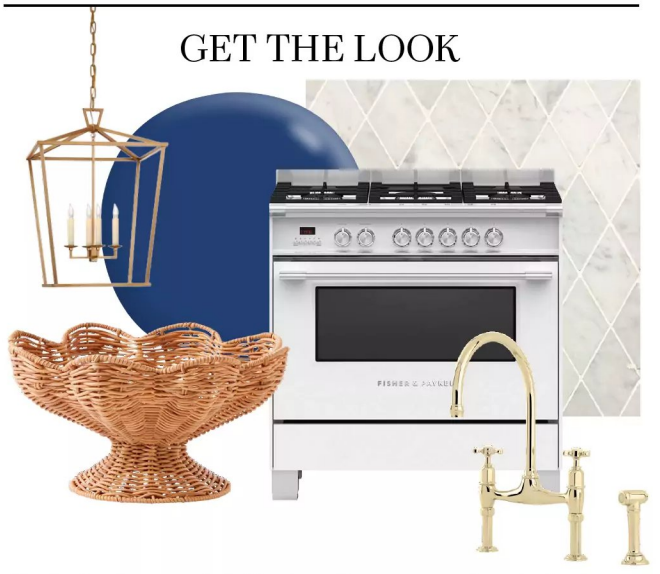
Interior design *Studio Aem, studioaem.com.au.*
Architect *Innovate Architects, innovate.com.au.*
Builders *My Thred Built, mythred.com.au.*
Joinery *Tasker Joinery, taskerjoinery.com.au.*

With three of their four daughters living at home, plus two cats and a pair of miniature Dachshunds, this busy couple's brief was simple: a kitchen with a large central island to bring everyone together and a scullery tucked behind to keep the mess out of sight. Alexandra Mason, director and lead designer of Studio Aem, was tasked with renovating the waterfront home in the Sutherland Shire. "They wanted pared back finishes that aligned with a classic Hamptons beach-style house," she says.

The transformation involved relocating the kitchen to the middle of the home, where it enjoys bay views. With a palette of crisp whites and carrara marble, the space nods to classic Hamptons style. Luxurious hero features abound, like a Turner Hastings butler sink, Ilve 'Nostalgie' freestanding oven, Perrin & Rowe tapware in Satin Brass from The English Tapware Company and a concealed Sirius undermount rangehood with a decorative shroud. The standout centrepiece is the oversized kitchen island, swathed in bold Dulux Blue Lobelia. "While the overall palette is light and airy, we introduced a deeper, moodier tone on the kitchen island to echo the colours of the water from the bay," Alexandra shares. Brushed Satin Brass hardware from Touch Handles accents the sparkling sensation.

The result is a kitchen that's just as functional as it is beautiful, with a style that enhances the connection to the water beyond.

GET THE LOOK



Clockwise from top left *'Darlana'* ***lantern*** *pendant in Antique Burnished Brass, $2090/medium, The Montauk Lighting Co. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Mystification, $121.50/4L. Fisher & Paykel 900mm 'Series 7 Classic 5-Burner' dual fuel* ***cooker*** *in White, $5499, Harvey Norman. 'Carrara Diamond Honed' mosaic* ***tiles*** *(309mm x 285mm sheet), $37/sheet, Perini. Perrin & Rowe 'Ionian'* ***mixer*** *with crosshead taps and spray rinse in Gold, $2285, The English Tapware Company. 'Clementine' pedestal* ***bowl*** *in Natural, $44.99, Adairs.* HB

BATHED IN BERRY

Rich tones and bold design choices evoke lashings of luxury in this main ensuite

WORDS BRITTANY SMITH | STYLING BEK SHEPHARD
PHOTOGRAPHY MILLY MEAD

IN THE DETAILS

Emma and Ben's must-haves *included a double basin with a large mirror and plenty of storage. "We have face level storage and storage within the vanity itself," Emma says. The Issy 'Cloud' triple mirror with shaving cabinet is recessed, so as not to intrude in the space. This is above the Issy 'Adorn' vanity by Zuster with rich American oak joinery in a Pecan Oak finish. It's paired with a Corian benchtop in Weathered Aggregate. All are from Reece.*

SOURCE BOOK

Builder *Nine in Six, nineinsix.com.au.* ***Joinery*** *Purchased from Reece and featuring the Issy 'Adorn' by Zuster range, reece.com.au.*

STYLE NOTES

Brushed bronze tapware *from Reece enhances the warmth and elevates the scheme. Each piece has knurled detailing that aids an artisan appeal. "The texture is so elegant, beautiful and unique," says Emma. Milli 'Etch' tap sets with round backplates appear above the Kado 'Lussi' round inset basins, while the shower benefitted from twin Milli 'Marq Edit' showerheads and additional handheld shower on bracket. All are from Reece, in the Brushed Bronze finish.*

Newear freezing mid-winter temperatures are no match against the warmth and cosiness of this ensuite. Designed by *The Block* competitors Emma and Ben as part of the 2025 season of the television show, the style was influenced by a "mid-century western" feel, befitting the home's country surrounds of Daylesford, Victoria.

The couple, who have already renovated two homes and built another together, didn't focus on pleasing a potential buyer with their design. Instead, Ben says, "The ensuite reflects what we personally like." This led to bold choices, including the decision not to feature a bath. This freed up space in the floor plan for a generous double shower, hidden from view by a nib wall.

The room feels inviting, drawing guests in with a stunning use of colour drenching. "We wanted to make the space feel luxurious and moody," says Emma. Burgundy tones envelop, with walls dressed in Grafico's 'Concrete Stucco Veneziano' wallpaper in Shiraz and Beaumont Tiles' 'Home' kitkat gloss tiles in Grape. Lighter blush notes add a point of difference, highlighting the half-height curved wall, clad in 'Bedrock' tumbled marble tiles in Rosso, also from Beaumont Tiles.

The couple came equal first thanks to their efforts, proving that this ensuite paints a rosy picture.

GET THE LOOK

From left *'Home' kitkat gloss* ***tiles*** *in Grape (250mm x 125mm), $149/sqm, Beaumont Tiles. Issy 'Cloud'* ***mirror with shaving cabinet****, $3265, Milli 'Mood Edit'* ***heated towel rail*** *in PVD Brushed Bronze, $2990, Kado, 'Lussi'* ***basin****, $429, and Milli 'Etch'* ***tap set*** *in Brushed Bronze, $765, all Reece.* HB

WARM TOUCH

Organic forms and natural materials give this bathroom a spa-like serenity

WORDS TENEAL ZUVELA | STYLING KARIN BOCHNIK
PHOTOGRAPHY TIMOTHY KAYE

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design and builder *Mckimm, mckimm.com.au.* ***Joinery*** *Shadowline Joinery, slj.com.au.* ***Stonemason*** *MSM Stone, msmstone.com.au.*

This bathroom's contemporary curves and neutral palette reveal little of its true setting within an old Victorian weatherboard in Melbourne, Victoria. The heritage home, owned by a young professional, was thoughtfully restored by Mckimm interior designer Isabella Cini, who carefully balanced the home's period features with the open, light-filled spaces the homeowner desired.

While the the property's Victorian-era charm is preserved in parts of the home, the bathroom provided an opportunity to lean into a more contemporary sense of luxury. "The brief was to create a bathroom that felt like a retreat," shares Isabella. To create a spa-like space, Isabella enveloped the room in the warm, earthy tones of pink-hued natural stone, microcement walls in a custom colour, Ceramica Senio travertine tiles and French limestone floor pavers. Concealed storage is found behind the Ferm Living puddle-shaped mirrors, while vertically mounted Astra Walker heated towel rails make efficient use of the space. The ABI Interiors 'Ukiyo' circular bath, situated in front of a bright window draped with sheer curtains, is the indulgent centrepiece, complemented by subtle glimmers of silver in the Astra Walker tapware in Brushed Platinum.

"The homeowner sees the bathroom as a true reflection of her personality – elegant, tactile and quietly playful," Isabella says happily of the beautiful result.

STYLE NOTES

***"Curves become the defining** language of our design," shares Isabella. "The circular bath is such a beautiful statement piece but it also gives the bathroom a playful touch. It offers a unique point of difference, and its form echoes the geometry of the circular skylight and the curved shower, creating a harmonious flow throughout the space."*

DESIGNER'S TIP

***"Choose natural materials to** create a sense of connection to the outdoors," advises Isabella. She used a large slab of honed 'Ceppo Patagonia' from BC Stone across the vanity benchtop, splashback and basin. This natural material feels grounded, luxurious and absolutely seamless .*

GET THE LOOK

***From left** 'Sydney' **basin spout** in Antique Brass, $231, Yabby. Dulux Wash&Wear **paint** in Puddle, $102.95/4L. 'Ceppo Patagonia' **stone**, BC Stone. Laufen 'Val' freestanding **bath**, $9500, Reece. 'Guell' wall **mirror**, $219, James Lane. Frama 'Apothecary' **body lotion**, $135/375ml, Oliver Thom.* HB

ENSUITE TREAT

Lovely luxe fixtures and natural light turn this bathroom into a couple's retreat

WORDS TENEAL ZUVELA | STYLING OLGA LEWIS
PHOTOGRAPHY TOM FERGUSON

Located within a busy family home, this ensuite was designed to be the private sanctuary of a husband and wife. "The clients envisioned a pared back yet bright bathroom that would feel calm and functional," shares Studio Aem's Alexandra Mason, who led the renovation.

To enhance the sense of openness within the shared space, the freestanding Cassa Design 'Hampton' freestanding bath is positioned on an elevated plinth, highlighted by a brass trim. Above it, an existing window was enlarged and repositioned to encourage natural light, heightened by the perfect crisp white shade of Dulux Lexicon Quarter across the walls and ceiling. A custom floating dual vanity topped with white porcelain from AC Stone and ADP 'Neptune' above-counter basins free up more floor space. "Careful planning ensured ample circulation space in the centre of the room, maintaining effortless movement at all times," shares Alexandra. Thoughtful storage is provided by the generous shower recess and built-in-wall niche with decorative architraves, while warm brass accents in the Phoenix tapware, joinery pulls and Coco Republic wall sconces bring a sense of classic sophistication.

The overall effect is a serene space where the couple can truly unwind and decompress. "The owners are very pleased with the new layout and now spend a great deal of time bathing and relaxing in their generous, light-filled bathroom," Alexandra says. "The space has become a personal sanctuary."

DESIGNER'S TIP

For Alexandra, functionality forms *the foundation of every bathroom design. "Proper ventilation prevents moisture build-up, protects finishes, and keeps the space fresh," she says. "Underfloor heating is an item that I would recommend. Not only does it create a warm, ambient space, it also helps to keep floors dry as well." This practical purpose is often overlooked by those who view underfloor heating as a luxury.*

IN THE DETAILS

Crisp white walls and grey-toned *stone flooring anchor the bathroom. "We used carrara subway format tiles in a brick lay and a herringbone format," Alexandra says of the Di Lorenzo tiled flooring, which extends into the shower. "We specified a coat of the bright Dulux Lexicon Quarter to further enhance the sense of lightness and openness throughout the space."*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Studio Aem, studioaem.com.au.*
Architect *Innovate Architects, innovate.com.au.*
Builder *My Thred Built, mythred.com.au.*
Joinery *Tasker Joinery, taskerjoinery.com.au.* HB

TWIST OF FATE

A brush with bad luck turned out to be a blessing for the owners of this ensuite

WORDS KATE BARBER | STYLING MEGAN MORTON
PHOTOGRAPHY PRUE RUSCOE

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Stillone Design, stillonedesign.com.au.*
Builder *Pioneer Projects, pioneerprojects.com.au.*
Joinery *Fisher Fitouts, fisherfitouts.com.au.*

A burst water valve was the impetus for this luxe bathroom renovation in the ensuite of a home in Sydney's Lower North Shore. Interior designer Anna Maria Stillone turned her family's bad luck into a silver lining in the main ensuite she shares with her husband, Chris. The home, where they live with their two sons, Hugo, 16, and Jonathan, nine, had been renovated in 2012, but the bathroom palette was quite sparse. "I wanted a more luxurious ensuite that elevated the whole room and gave more presence in the home as a parents' retreat," says Anna Maria.

A half-wall was added to separate the vanity and the shower, but the layout remained the same. And, while it's not a large space, Anna Maria managed to make every millimetre feel indulgent. When it came to essentials, she lists: "the feature marble, good lighting and a double vanity". The Calacatta Viola stone on the vanity top and splashback is a true showstopper, which cascades down to meet floating Shaker-style joinery below. From there, swathes of neutrals allow the marble to take centre stage. "I chose to work on a neutral palette for all the other elements, only differentiating the tile and detail through texture, finish, pattern and format," says Anna Maria.

Now, the couple's ensuite stands out from the crowd. "It feels different and subtle, but also fun and creative," she says.

IN THE DETAILS

"Don't limit yourself to choosing one tile *because you are concerned about mixing textures and formats," says Anna Maria. Here, a mix of Di Lorenzo tiles, from bevelled glazed 'Alchemist' wall tiles to matte floor tiles laid in a herringbone pattern, work as the supporting cast for the Calacatta Viola marble from Gitani Stone. Brodware 'City Que' tapware in Chrome completes the look with joinery in Porter's Paints Wood Smoke.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

"Spend time thinking about the space," *advises Anna Maria. "The smallest change in proportion can make the biggest difference when dealing with a small space." The interior designer adds that it's also important to think about light – from natural light to feature lighting. Here, 'Dimple' sconces from Koda Lighting add a "soft and moody vibe" at night.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *'Haven' cotton* ***hand towel*** *in Sage, $29.95, Aura Home. Byredo Casablanca Lily* ***Extrait de Parfum****, $575/50ml, Mecca. Calacatta Viola* ***marble****, from $2640/sqm, Gitani Stone. 'Whitehaven Wavy' ceramic subway* ***tiles*** *in White Satin (280mm x 68mm), $42/sqm, The Blue Space. 'Gooseneck Hob Swivel* ***Spout'*** *in Chrome, $99.90, ABI Interiors.* HB

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

BETTER SHAPE UP

The opposing play of curves with straight lines brings balance and harmony to this ensuite

WORDS BRITTANY SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY MAREE HOMER

Positioned in the heart of Sydney, this ensuite bathroom is a calming reprieve from the cacophony of sounds floating up from the city streets below. The apartment was built in the late 1990s with a tired beige scheme in the bathroom. "We started by rigorously refining the materials selection so there was a clear palette," says Brendan Wong, principal designer at Brendan Wong Design, who was tasked with completing the renovation in 2022.

The brief was inspired by the concept of quiet luxury; a style that emphasises understated elegance and the beauty of quality materials. Swathes of carrara marble set the tone, as square wall and floor tiles and slabs on the bath fascia and vanity benchtop.

From there, juxtapositions provide balance. The cool, neutral marble is offset with warming touches of timber and brass in the joinery and tapware. Contrasting shapes also speak to each other. "The surrounding walls, bath fascia and shower screen are rectilinear so we intentionally contrasted this with the curved vanity, benchtop profile and handles for balance of form and to add soft sculptural elements," explains Brendan. The result is a sophisticated space that proves opposites do attract.

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Brendan Wong Design, brendanwong.com.*
Builder *Built Complete, builtcomplete.com.au.*
Joinery *XYZ Joinery, xyzjoinery.com.au.*

STYLE NOTES

"We designed the vanity *to almost appear like two suitcases sitting in between shelves," says Brendan. The curved fronts of the American oak vanity are sandwiched between slabs of carrara marble from Earp Brothers, evoking visual equilibrium. The shape also aided size constraints. "The separately curved fronts introduce a rhythm and softness of form, while also reducing the visual bulk of the size of the vanity," adds Brendan.*

IN THE DETAILS

Brodware 'City Plus' *tapware in Brushed Nordic Brass adds a little luxury alongside Nest Studio 'Organic' pulls from Spark and Burnish in Blackened and Polished Brass. The organic form contrasts with the angular lines of the custom reeded glass shower screen and custom bronze frame. This frame was also used on twin rectangular mirrors. Beneath, dual 'Loop & Friends' basins from Villeroy & Boch carry these straight lines through.* HB

PERFECT PAIRING

This combined laundry and mudroom is a stylish and functional marvel

WORDS LISA EASEY | STYLING ESS CREATIVE & SAMANTHA STALTARE | PHOTOGRAPHY ESS CREATIVE

IN THE DETAILS

"The palette is timeless and *natural with off-white and soft green paired with oak joinery and black hardware," shares Danielle. Hepburn Hardware handles in Scorched Black and a Nover Krome Steel hanging rail in Matt Black add contrast. The Brodware 'Manhattan' pullout kitchen mixer in Aged Iron is an elegant accent.*

When the owners of this period bungalow in Sydney's Upper North Shore decided on a full-scale renovation, high on their list of needs was a laundry and mudroom. Instead of designing two separate spaces, Danielle Bonello-Dunsford, principal designer and founder of Danielle Victoria Design Studio, crafted a combined hub to serve the needs of the family of four.

"Our clients wanted a highly functional laundry and mudroom to organise their boys' school bags and a space to wash and dry laundry without it spilling into other areas of the home," explains Danielle. Essential to the design was the inclusion of floor-to-ceiling storage, a convenient bench for slipping off shoes, ample folding areas and integrated drying racks in the cabinetry, complete with mesh profiles for airflow.

To further elevate the functionality, a "timeless and natural" colour and material palette was chosen. On the laundry side, Caesarstone benchtops in Organic White pair beautifully with Metro Snow tiles in a gloss finish from Surface Gallery. Meanwhile, a Laminex bench in Classic Oak nestled within the mudroom cabinetry lends a warming touch.

With so many clever and practical features on an elegant backdrop, it's clear why this multifunctional space was a must-have for the family. "Our clients are so happy with the results and love that everything now has a place," says Danielle.

STYLE NOTES

The choice of Dulux Bottle Green *on the VJ panelling and Dulux Gamelan on the laundry joinery was selected to match the kitchen, also in a lovely green palette. Soft off-whites, such as Dulux Vivid White on the ceiling and trims, and Dulux White Exchange Quarter on the mudroom joinery and walls, enhance the classic and clean aesthetic.*

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Danielle Victoria Design, daniellevictoria.com.au.*
Builder *Four Hammers, fourhammers.com.au.*
Joinery *CK Joinery, ckjoinery.com.au; Tranquil Projects, tranquilprojects.com.au.*

GET THE LOOK

From left *Milli 'Etch' Progressive Hob* ***basin mixer tap set*** *in Brushed Nickel, $680, Reece. Dulux Wash&Wear* ***paint*** *in Gamelan, $108.32/4L. 'Vienna' 630mm* ***single sink*** *in White Granite, $654.90, ABI Interiors. 'Koti'* ***wall hook****, $29.90, Città. Arabian chalk gloss handmade* ***tiles*** *(100mm x 100mm), $335/sqm, Perini.* HB

ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

PEACE OF MIND

With clever design and classic touches, this laundry elevates daily routines

WORDS LISA EASEY | PHOTOGRAPHY PRUE RUSCOE

Tackling the laundry for a busy family of seven is no small task. So, when it came time to update their Tamworth home, the owners turned to interior designer Lucinda Kimpton of Kimpton Interiors to transform the space into a hardworking yet peaceful haven.

"With five children and a rural lifestyle, the laundry needed to be as practical as it is serene," says Lucinda. High on the wishlist were generous storage solutions, durable finishes and a considered layout designed to make the family's daily routine feel effortless. Hanging rods, overhead cabinetry and under bench joinery were layered to keep the space tidy and organised.

Yet, style was equally important. The laundry showcases Calacatta Crema marble benchtops, supplied by Lamistone, and Shaker-style cabinetry, all set within a serene white palette.

Now, the family has a laundry that works seamlessly and feels far from a chore. "If you have to do endless laundry, it may as well be in a space that feels calm, beautiful and thoughtfully designed – and ours is exactly that," shares the owner.

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Kimpton Interiors, kimptoninteriors.com.au.*
Builder *Larry Marker Constructions, (02) 6762 4422.*
Joinery *Nu Space Joinery, nu-space.com.au.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

"Thoughtful lighting adds *warmth, elegance and a sense of intention – elevating the everyday and making functional tasks feel a little more enjoyable," explains Lucinda, who chose a Visual Comfort 'Goodman' hanging pendant in Antique Brass. "Beautiful lighting may feel like an extravagance in a utilitarian space, but it's one that transforms the energy and experience of the room."*

IN THE DETAILS

"Finishes, fixtures and *joinery detailing all carry equal weight," explains Lucinda of the cohesive design. Shaker-style cabinetry in Dulux Ecru Quarter is complemented by 'Cotswold' ball cabinet knobs from Armac Martin. An Acquello fireclay sink from The English Tapware Company suits the rural setting while being practical for everyday use.* HB

ARTWORK ARTIST UNKNOWN

HIT FOR SIX

Function underpins fabulous form in the charming laundry of this family of six

WORDS JULIA FAIRLEY | STYLING KATIE MORLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY SUZI APPEL

For Katie, an interior stylist, and Kelvin, whose company crafts architectural materials, their laundry was always destined to be much more than utilitarian. The creative couple and parents of four live in a 19th century homestead in Melbourne, which lacked in convenience what it made up for in character, so enhancing both was part of the brief for interior designer Lynette Yannakakis.

"The home had been renovated in the '80s to include a secondary kitchen, which was used as a laundry but didn't function well for the family of six," explains Lynette. Her first order of business was to turn the ancillary kitchen into a purpose-built laundry, wrangling wonky walls, century-old building techniques and a lack of foundations along the way.

"The best laundries work hard behind the scenes and start with consideration about how the space needs to work," says Lynette, who included ample storage with tall cupboards, under-bench cabinets and drawers. To tackle near constant loads of laundry, she added two washing machines and dryers, which earn their keep day in and out, plus a wide fireclay sink. And in a stroke of genius, she designed a custom drying cabinet.

Shaker-style joinery and Perini 'Goza' chequerboard marble floor tiles marry old and new, while Castella 'Ridge' handles and a classic Turner Hastings 'Ludlow Bridge' mixer tap nod to the home's original era. The result is a laundry brimming with stylish storage, beautiful bench space for folding, and even a little alcove where Katie can style her ever-evolving vignettes, which elevate the room far beyond the purely practical.

SOURCE BOOK

Interior design *Kaas Interior Design, kaasinteriors.com.au.*
Joinery *JL Custom Cabinetry, @jlcustomcabinetry.*

DESIGNER'S TIP

There are numerous *neat solutions for drying delicate clothing and oversized linen out of sight. Here, Lynette cleverly concealed a custom drying cabinet, which she fitted with accordion-style pull-out racks and placed over a heating duct on the floor. A ventilation system above keeps the cabinet free of moisture, while garments dry gently inside without visually cluttering the room.*

STYLE NOTES

With the walls and ceiling *drenched in Dulux Stone Fortress and cabinetry in Porter's Paints Bayleaf, the laundry's colour combination is unexpected yet balanced; the saturation of both hues equally matched. Blackwood benchtops recede with their rich Osmo oil finish and invite the crisp white Miele appliances and 'Cove 75' Turner Hastings sink to pop against the strong palette.* HB

ARTWORK ALLAN SHUTTLE ALL PAINT COLOURS MAY VARY ON APPLICATION

NEWS

ON TAP

Perfect process

This calming, contemporary kitchen (below) was brought to life with Cantilever's new streamlined design and build service, Cantilever & Co. After pairing their clients with trusted builders, the team refreshed this space with Cantilever's K2 system and natural stone benchtops. For more, check out cantileverinteriors.com.

Stand out

Looking to add a pop of cool colour to your benchtop? Kitchenaid's latest release, the 'Artisan' tilt-head stand mixer in the serene green shade of Cardamom (above, $1049) will do the trick. kitchenaid.com.au.

TOP SHELF

Saardé has stepped into haircare with a shampoo and conditioner ($69 each/ 480ml) infused with their signature scent, 'Saint-Raphaël'. saarde.com.

Kitchen and bathroom buys to get on your radar

EDITED BY **ALICE IERACE & BRITTANY SMITH**

HOT TOUCH

Legacy brand Gaggenau has released their first new cavity range in almost two decades. The 'Expressive Series' blends professional-grade performance and architectural presence, as seen in the combi-microwave oven (above). gaggenau.com.au.

PLATE UP

Elevate your tablescape with No. 22 Home's latest collection, 'Les Classiques'. no22.com.au.

BENCH MARK

NEOLITH'S LATEST COLOUR LAUNCH IS AVAILABLE NOW, COMBINING CLASSIC STYLE WITH ALL THE PRACTICALITIES OF THEIR STAIN-RESISTANT AND HEAT-RESISTANT STONE. THE COLOURS ARE NAMED TAJ MAHAL (LEFT), AZURE, CRÈME AND MAMBA, AND ARE AVAILABLE IN A SILK FINISH WITH A 12MM THICKNESS. EXPLORE MORE AT NEOLITH.COM/AU.

PHOTOGRAPHY (TOP, CENTRE) MARTINA GEMMOLA (TOP, RIGHT) BILL CHEN

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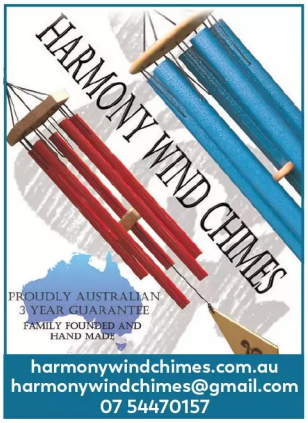

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NEXT ISSUE, WE'RE LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS WITH A SPECIAL DEDICATED TO THE SKILLS OF HOSTING, ALONG WITH DELICIOUS RECIPES FROM THE *WOMEN'S WEEKLY* KITCHEN THAT ARE SURE TO PLEASE.

PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN PAUL URIZAR

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